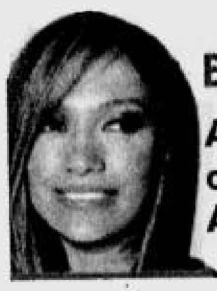


Entertainment / A3-4

A 'monster' premiere or why JLo's Marc Anthony looks familiar

■ Business / B1

Peso bounces back to 53-$1 level due to OFW remittances

■ World / A10

3rd highest ranking al-Qaida leader arrested in Pakistan

■ News / A3

Henry Sy's Banco de Oro acquires United Overseas Bank

■ News / A2

Goma in deeper hole; his entertainment firm owes gov't P13-M tax

RP's best PRs offer help to salvage GMA's image

MAHIRAP PAGANDA-HIN YAN!

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE COUNTRY'S best spin doctors are set to polish the image of the Arroyo administration tarnished by renewed destabilization efforts and declining approval ratings.

RP'S BEST/ A9

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, May 6, 2005 ★★★ 78 pages / 11 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 147 P18
email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
website: www.inq7.net

Despite Iraq war, Blair favored to win UK election

LONDON—Britons began voting yesterday in a general election widely predicted to hand Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labor Party a third straight term in power, even though he has lost public trust over the war in Iraq.

Amid concerns of a terrorist attack on polling day, the Foreign Office in London confirmed that two small explosions had oc-

DESPITE/ A22

Reason why Corpus quit

Overpriced deal was too much to take

By Amando Doronila and Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

RETIRED Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus resigned as alternate ex-officio chair of the Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC) on April 27 because of an alleged overprice in a contract that seeks to replace old diesel engines of passenger jeepneys and buses with new ones.

The Engine Replacement Program is aimed at reducing air pollution to comply with the emission standards of the Clean Air Act.

Officials close to Corpus at NRDC, the corporate arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), said he opposed a resolution backed by Environment Secretary Michael Defensor to approve a contract with A. T. Intergrouppe Inc. (ATI) and Italian firm Iveco.

Iveco is said to be Europe's leading engine manufacturer.

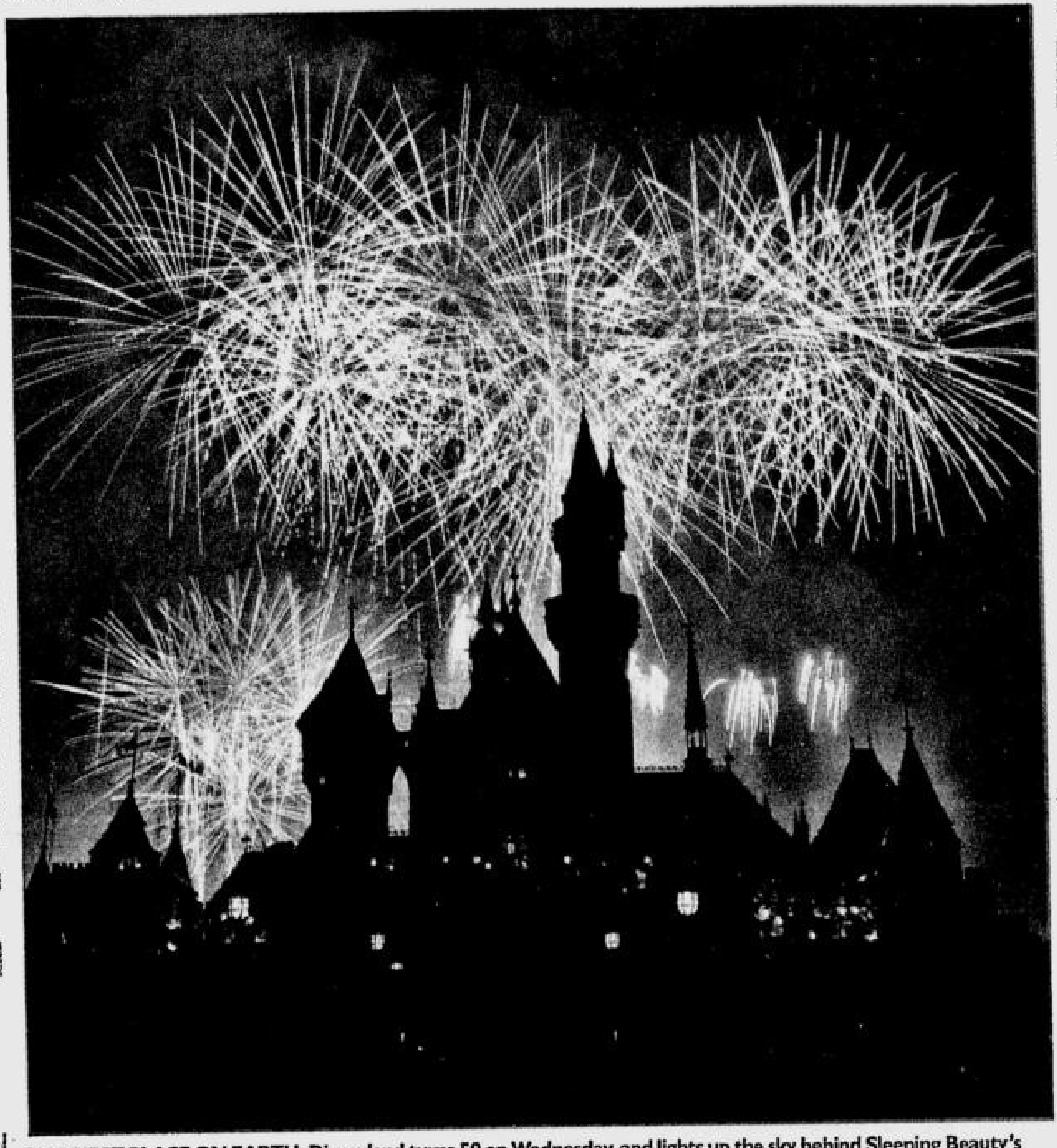
The resolution was approved by the NRDC board chaired by Defensor and was tabled at a meeting shortly after Corpus was appointed on Dec. 3, 2004.

Corpus told the NRDC board he would review the contract. After the review, Corpus found, according to the INQUIRER source, that the engines were "overpriced four times."

ATI offered reconditioned diesel engines at $2,000 each. Corpus' survey found an engine could be purchased for $500. ATI whose president is Albert Tan has a paid-up capital of $730,000.

ATI wanted to borrow $200 million and asked the NRDC to endorse the contract to enable it to obtain financing guaranteed by Tid-

REASON/ A8



HAPPIEST PLACE ON EARTH. Disneyland turns 50 on Wednesday, and lights up the sky behind Sleeping Beauty's castle in Anaheim, California, at the premier showing of its anniversary fireworks show, "Remember ... Dreams Come True." Indeed, in the ultimate fantasy land, the dreams that you dream will come true if you keep on believing. AP

3 'influential' men suspects in newsman's slay

By PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Police are looking into the possible involvement as masterminds of at least three "influential" people in Wednesday's ambush-killing of radio commentator Klein Cantoneros in Dipolog City.

"We are eyeing several suspects ... some are influential figures that might have resorted to guns-for-hire or the victim's personal enemies (to fulfill their agenda)," Supt. Jeufel Adriatico, Zamboanga del Norte police chief, told the INQUIRER in Dipolog.

In Manila, Senior Supt. Pedro Tango, chief of Task Force Newsmen, said that whoever had Cantoneros assassinated was most likely angry over his hard-hitting commentaries on the radio. His group has been tasked with investigating attacks on journalists nationwide.

Cantoneros, 34, who hosted a daily morning program on radio dxAA-FM, was on his way home at around 12:30 a.m. on Wednesday

3 INFLUENTIAL/ A8

'His children were the people,' says Taruc son

By DJ Yap

FATHER to generations of peasants

HE WAS a good father to his only son as well as to an entire generation of peasants who shared his dream of owning the land they tilled.

This was how Dr. Romeo Taruc described his father, Luis Taruc, a legendary guerrilla leader who had led Philippine resistance against the Japanese occupation during World War II and later a failed communist rebellion in the 1950s.

The elder Taruc suffered a heart attack at home on Sunday and died at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City on Wednesday. He

HIS CHILDREN/ A22

Bishop: Another 'jueteng' probe resolves nothing

By Christian V. Esguerra, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Philip C. Tubeza

ANOTHER exposé. Another probe. And then what?

Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, the man who spilled the beans on "jueteng" operators, is not optimistic that something concrete will come out of the controversy and the subsequent congressional inquiry triggered by his exposé.

"Nothing," he flatly told reporters on Wednesday.

Cruz, who had submitted to Congress a list of alleged "jueteng" operators in 24 provinces, yesterday said his reservations were based on the fact that nothing substantial had come out of similar investigations in the past.

"Besides, the national leadership does not appear to be really against jueteng although it is an illegal numbers game," he told the INQUIRER.

The INQUIRER obtained a copy of the "archbishop's list," which named five incumbent governors, a vice governor and a mayor as among the jueteng operators allegedly forking over P13 billion a year in payoffs to keep the illegal numbers game going.

Malacañang yesterday dared Cruz to reveal the identities of jueteng operators.

At a briefing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said: "To be credible, the names

BISHOP/ A8

'Guerrilla tactics' while heat is on

By Fe Zamora

THE HEAT is on.

To elude law enforcers, "jueteng" operators have adopted "guerrilla tactics" like moving the venues of the draw from house to house on short notice.

As an added precaution, lookouts are posted to warn the operators about "suspicious looking men with firearms" who could be members of police raiding teams.

The "guerrilla tactics" have been adopted since last week, according to a middle-aged bet collector, or bookie, who operates in Quezon City and parts of Caloocan.

The house owner gets P150 for the use of his property as a venue for the draw, he told the INQUIRER in an interview Wednesday night, while he was doing the last rounds of collecting bets for the 7 a.m. draw the next day.

"And the draws now are faster. It's over in 15 minutes," he said.

GUERRILLA/ A8

AMERICAN CONNECTION. The President meets with US Deputy Secretary of State Robert B. Zoellick (3rd from left). To his right are US Chargé d'Affaires Joseph Mussomeli and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone. Others in the picture are members of Zoellick's party and Filipino officials, including Assistant Secretary Ariel Abadilla of the DFA's American desk, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz and Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. *(Story on Page A2.)* EDWIN BACASMAS

High-living coco firm exec admits perks

By Tony S. Bergonia

THERE'S nothing wrong with spending millions of pesos of the coconut levy funds for perks and other privileges, according to the head of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF).

In an interview over radio station dzBB, Rolando A. Golez, president and chief executive officer of the sequestered CIIF, said it was true that he was given a new sport utility vehicle upon assuming office, and that he had spent company funds to play golf and to travel abroad with his wife.

Golez, whom President Macapagal-Arroyo appointed to the CIIF in 2003, also admitted spending coconut levy funds for shares and memberships in golf clubs.

Asked over the program "Dobol A Sa Dobol B" if he did not consider the perks immoral, although legal, Golez simply told hosts Arnold Clavio and Ali Sotto: "It's there, it's part of my compensation package."

But in the same radio interview, Haydee

HIGH-LIVING/ A21

Palace tells Yorac: Thanks but no thanks

By Christine Avendaño and Alcuin Papa

MALACAÑANG appears reluctant to take on Haydee Yorac, the resigned chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, who had raised concerns over the expenses of a group of companies set up using coconut levy funds.

Asked yesterday to comment on Yorac's questioning of the perks for the top officers of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF), Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Malacanang was thanking Yorac for her stint as chair of the PCGG. "But I believe it's time to move on," he added.

Asked whether this meant that Malacañang was disregarding the concerns raised by Yorac and that there would be no full accounting of the funds, Bunye said "not only the coco levy fund but [also] all other offices are subject to regu-

PALACE/ A21

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ERIKA SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/05/06/05

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FrontPage

Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Goma digs self deeper tax hole

By Armand N. Nocum

ACTOR Richard Gomez has just dug himself a deeper hole.

In a bid to extricate himself from a nearly P100-million tax evasion case, he unwittingly gave investigators a lead to tax irregularities involving his entertainment firm.

His disclosure resulted in the filing yesterday of another tax evasion case, this time against talent manager Douglas Quijano, president of Gomez's Harte Beest Entertainment Corp.

In its complaint against Quijano before the Department of Justice, the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Department of Finance accused Harte Beest of not paying P13,137,800 in taxes from 2000 to 2003.

At a press briefing, Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan said that from 2000 to 2003, the firm's "total gross revenues was P41 million" for which it should have paid P13 million in corporate income taxes.

But in the tax returns Harte Beest filed with the BIR, the firm claimed it had "no operation" in 2000 and 2001. In 2002 and 2003, it did not file a tax return.

Ironically, the BIR and DOF's Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program did not set out to investigate Harte Beest, focusing instead on Gomez's personal tax liability as a movie and television actor, model, commercial talent, product endorser and television host from 2000 to 2003.

Although he had declared that he either had no income or that he had paid taxes through his company, Gomez was able to buy a P52-million home in Forbes Park. The DOF and the BIR sued Gomez for tax evasion last month.

GOMEZ

"Originally, the BIR was not investigating Harte Beest. But when we filed a case against Gomez, one his defenses was that it was his company that had been paying his income tax," Bonoan said.

"Since it was Mr. Gomez who brought it up himself, there was no other course of action but to investigate [his] company," he said.

Harte Beest was registered as a domestic corporation with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 29, 1994. Gomez owned 2,400 of its 5,000 shares of stock.

At the time of Harte Beest's incorporation, Gomez's registered address was 12 Matipuno St., Horseshoe Townhomes.

In the four-page complaint, BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno said that no less than ABS-CBN, Gomez's former employer, "disclosed that their company made payments to Harte Beest representing talent fees of (Gomez) amounting to P18,256,431.97 over the period from 2000-2003."

Viva Productions Inc. also admitted paying the firm P5,775,000 for Gomez's talent fees for 2002 to 2003.

Parayno, who signed the complaint, said Gomez "failed to pay the requisite income tax returns and consequently failed to declare the correct income for taxable years 2002 and 2003, despite receipt of the above amounts in addition to the total professional fees paid by GMA-Network Inc. during taxable year 2003 amounting to P17,024,194."

The BIR said the non-declaration and non-filing of taxes by Gomez's firm showed "prima facie existence of fraud with intent to evade the payment of taxes in violation" of the Tax Code.

A recent check of BIR records showed that Gomez's firm had paid taxes of P62,000 for years 2000, 2001 and 2003.

But the BIR said the payments were made in a "veiled attempt to cover up its scheme to avoid criminal liability."

"However, the same proved futile and only aggravated the offense already committed as not only the amount proved to be minuscule compared to its real tax liability but, more so, the date appears to be suspect," the BIR said, adding that "the defect...could no longer be remedied as the crime had been consummated."

Gomez was a no-show at yesterday's scheduled preliminary investigation of his tax evasion case in the DOJ. His lawyers chose not to file his counter-affidavit until they saw the BIR complaint. Gomez was given until May 19 to file his statement. *With Cynthia D. Balana*

US ties reforms, anticorruption measure to aid

By Gil Cabacungan

WASHINGTON wants the Arroyo administration to put in place more effective fiscal reforms and anticorruption measures before it can tap from the $1 billion Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), a special US aid fund initiated by President George Bush to help select countries worldwide.

US Deputy Secretary of State Robert B. Zoellick said in a press conference in Malacañang that discussions on the Philippines' access to the MCA was still in the "preliminary stage" nearly three years since the fund was launched.

"We talked (with Philippine officials) about the redoing aspects on their proposal (particularly) on the corruption aspect and fiscal reform," Zoellick said.

Zoellick said the Philippines was the second biggest recipient of US financial assistance in Asia with $120 million a year next only to Indonesia. But the American government was still keen on giving more aid to its former colony mainly through the MCA which was on top of what the US grants through its traditional aid programs.

Zoellick explained that imposing conditions such as transparency, good governance and low level of corruption on the disbursement of MCA aid "has merit for both recipient and donor countries."

These objective requirements ensure that these funds would not be "misspent" and reassure the American public that their money was not being wasted, Zoellick said.

US government officials consider the MCA as a sort of competition where the winners are people who live in the countries that govern wisely, that invest in their people, and that promote economic freedom.

Only 16 countries were allowed to tap the MCA last year and the Philippines is competing with 69 other countries in getting eligibility for this fund.

Edsel Custodio, foreign undersecretary for international economic affairs, told reporters after Zoellick's briefing that the Philippines was aiming to get the maximum $20 million allowed for each country in the MCA.

Custodio said the government was finalizing the draft of its application for the MCA fund by including the fiscal reform measures that the government has implemented this year such as the legislation of new taxes, adopting cost-cutting measures, and reducing government subsidies.

Custodio said that the Philippines would draw up its comprehensive anticorruption program to convince the US government that its money would not go down the drain.

Palace vows food on every Filipino's table

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

THERE will be food on every Filipino's table.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye assured yesterday the public that President Macapagal-Arroyo remained committed to fulfilling her campaign promise of putting food on every table.

Bunye made the statement to clarify Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita's advice to the poor to "fend for themselves" and stop blaming the government for their economic woes.

"She (the President) is definitely committed to fulfill her campaign promise," said Bunye. "This is why the President's reply is to fix the economy and she believes that if investor confidence is strengthened through various reforms, there will enter new opportunities and new jobs. With new jobs, you can buy your needs such as food, clothes and housing."

Bunye said the administration was on track of meeting the President's self-imposed target of cutting the poverty level by half from 34 percent to 17 percent by the end of her term.

Putting food on every table has been the President's slogan since she ran for public office first as a senator in 1995. The late Fernando Poe Jr. took a dig at the President's campaign slogan in the 2004 elections when he summed up the country's biggest problem as "breakfast, lunch and dinner."

But four years under her term, a recent Pulse Asia survey showed that a third of Filipinos did not have enough to eat every day. The same survey showed that poor Filipinos had lost their trust in getting jobs or food relief from the government and had resorted to eating less, taking odd jobs, and borrowing money to cope with the hard times.

Reacting to this survey, Ermita said: "We encourage our fellow Filipino to work harder on their own, try to get jobs and do the best under the situation to fend for themselves."

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Masbate twins may have only one heart

THE GARGANTA twins were transferred yesterday to the intensive care unit of the Philippine General Hospital after developing difficulties in breathing, according to the fund manager of the Philippine National Red Cross.

Worse, the conjoined twins are apparently sharing only one heart, and that rules out any possibility that they would be separated at all.

"It was seen (through 2D echo test) that they might be sharing one heart," said Gwen Pang of the Red Cross, but added that doctors were still conducting more tests to double check whether there's only one heart pumping blood into the twins.

Dr. Josefina Almonte, who is in charge of the babies, could not be reached since she is in Subic Bay attending a conference. If it is verified through a CT-scan that they have one heart, then the "chances of the twins being separated become dim," Pang said.

A Red Cross doctor said the "most we can hope for is for the babies to grow up unseparated."

Born on April 29 in Masbate City, Angela and Angel Mae Garganta are joined by the waist (with one umbilical cord).

VAT bicam a step closer to accord

By TJ Burgonio
and Michael Lim Ubac

TAKING a step closer to breaking the congressional deadlock over the value added tax bill, Sen. Ralph Recto and Rep. Jesli Lapus met yesterday to draft a bicameral conference report, which proposes to retain the VAT rate at 10 percent but grant President Macapagal-Arroyo standby authority to increase it to 12 percent.

Recto and Lapus, the heads of the Senate and House bicam panels, met for at least three hours "to craft the language of the bicam report," which will be presented to the committee membership, according to highly reliable source.

Lapus, who earlier yesterday was blasting away and accusing the senators of engaging in a "power play" in several radio interviews, confirmed the secret meeting with Recto together with key staff from both chambers in Makati.

He said a joint bicameral draft report was indeed being ironed out which he said was "promising as an overall meeting of minds" was achieved.

"But as usual, the concern is to obtain majority [a minimum of five of the 9 votes] approved by the Senate panel. If Senator Recto will be successful by the weekend, the bicam VAT bill could finally be finished next week," Lapus said.

According to the sources, the draft report's salient proposals include lifting the exemptions of the power and fuel sectors, raising the corporate income tax from 32 to 35 percent, and imposing restrictions on the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

"However, the question of the no pass-on provision remains unresolved," the source said, referring to a provision in both Senate and House versions which prohibits the power and fuel sectors from passing on the VAT to consumers.

A source from Recto's office said the meeting attended by other congressmen and staff of the Senate Tax Study and Research Office was held "to craft the language of the standby authority," among other business.

Recto, who proposed the standby authority for the President to break the deadlock, could not be reached for comment.

"Recto and Lapus had a congenial, productive, working lunch today. Both expressed confidence that the proposed standby authority provision in the VAT reform bill will have majority support in each of the panels," the source said.

But Sen. Sergio Osmeña, a member of the bicam, claimed that until yesterday there was no consensus among the nine senators in the panel on whether to delegate standby powers to the President.

Aside from Osmeña, Senators Joker Arroyo, Manuel Villar Jr. and Jamby Madrigal are opposed to granting such powers to the President.

Also yesterday, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. challenged the constitutionality of granting the President standby authority to raise the VAT rate.

The Constitution merely grants the President standby authority to raise or lower tariff rates or customs duties, not taxes, while Congress is in recess, said Pimentel who is not part of the bicam.

Senate President Franklin Drilon has said that granting the President such power was legal, citing provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code.

Senators Edgardo Angara and Richard Gordon agreed in principle to the proposal, but stressed that the government should improve the efficiency of its tax collection first.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Palace clips Señeres powers as NLRC chief

By Christine O. Avendaño and Jerome Aning

MALACAÑANG for now is leaving the fate of National Labor Relations Commission chair Roy Señeres up to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas after the former was accused of seeking American help to destabilize the administration.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters yesterday the Palace was referring to Sto. Tomas the matter of answering the INQUIRER report that President Macapagal-Arroyo had confronted Señeres about his involvement in a destabilization plot against her.

"The best person to answer this is Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas because she said she was present on one of the occasions [when Señeres supposedly discussed the plot]," Bunye said.

Señeres had said the President confronted him on April 5 about the plot, which he has denied.

The NLRC chief, however, just had his powers clipped.

This after Sto. Tomas vowed to implement President Arroyo's order for her to assume administrative supervision of the NLRC.

"There is already an executive order for that and the Supreme Court has not invalidated it so I will implement it, whether they like it or not," Sto. Tomas told reporters in an interview, presumably referring to NLRC officials.

Sto. Tomas, who did not comment on the accusations of destabilization against Señeres, said the Department of Labor and Employment's administrative takeover of the NLRC would help it speed up the resolution of thousands of labor cases and deal with reported corruption in the agency.

"There's a need for systemic reform in the NLRC. I see myself as facilitating things for them. I can't see what's wrong with that," she said.

Bunye did not want to reply to the question of whether the move taken by the President transferring from her office to the office of the labor secretary supervision over the NLRC had anything to do with Señeres' alleged bid to oust Ms Arroyo.

Asked if there was a move to replace Señeres, Bunye said he did not know.

"But we all know that most of the positions in government are positions of trust and confidence. And they can stay there for as long as the trust and confidence are there," Bunye said.

Asked if Señeres still enjoyed the trust and confidence of the President, he said: "We don't know. That remains to be seen."

Señeres the other day said the NLRC needed more support from the government instead of more supervision. He called on Malacañang to give the agency the manpower and budget it had been asking for the past years.

The NLRC chair also said that instead of diverting her attention to the commission, Sto. Tomas could do "more good" by closely monitoring the performance of her labor inspectors so that fewer labor cases would be filed in the NLRC.

Sto. Tomas, however, countered that DOLE's 209 labor inspectors were performing well and made nearly 21,000 inspections last year to check on companies' compliance with general labor and working standards.

Sto. Tomas said the fact that cases at the NLRC were decided slowly was "not a slur on anybody" but at the same time was "not a contention that anybody denies."

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0582 Series of 2005

Banco de Oro acquires United Overseas Bank

TAIPAN Henry Sy's Banco de Oro is acquiring 66 of Singapore's United Overseas Bank's 67 branches in the Philippines.

Representatives of the two banks are scheduled to formally notify the Bangko Sentral this morning about the acquisition.

The Singapore bank started operations in the country only in November 1999 after UOB acquired a 60 percent stake in the problematic Westmont Bank.

UOB increased its stake in Westmont to 100 percent in July 2002 with the sell-off of all of Westmont's branches. UOB will be left with its loan branch at its headquarters at the Pacific Star building on Makati corner Gil Puyat avenues in Makati City.

Gov't panel says it was misled by NDF on hostages

COMMUNIST rebels executed four hostages they seized in Mindanao four years ago and misled government negotiators about their fate, the government announced yesterday.

Army sergeant Jeremias Rosete and three civilians were kidnapped by New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas in Sultan Kudarat in 2001.

In a statement, the government peace negotiating panel said they learned recently that the hostages were killed by their captors the following year.

NDF assurance

It said this fact was kept from the government by the NPA's political wing, the National Democratic Front, during peace talks last year.

Government negotiators, in a meeting with their NDF counterparts in Oslo in 2004, were assured that the rebels were working on the release of the hostages.

"We deplore the CPPs disregard for life and its utter lack of humanity in withholding information from the relatives of Sergeant Rosete et al and the (government) about what they had done to their captives," the peace panel said.

Stalled negotiations

The killings have effectively set back "the confidence building process" that both sides were trying to build in a bid to resume stalled peace negotiations.

The communists suspended talks with the government last year, accusing the government of not doing enough to have the CPP-NPA delisted from the US government's list of terrorist organizations.

The CPP has been waging a rebellion to oust the government since 1969, making it among the world's longest running communist insurgencies. *AFP*

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RP seaman who faked his death sent back from Brazil

By Nikko Dizon

THE FILIPINO seaman who faked his death in Brazil arrived in Manila yesterday afternoon after he was deported by Brazilian authorities for overstaying.

Allan Macavinta arrived at 3:20 p.m. on board Royal Dutch Airways flight KL 803 at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia).

Macavinta was escorted by two Brazilian policemen.

He will be brought to his local manning agency, Sea Workforce Manila Corporation, according to Emmanuel Afable, a representative from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), who met Macavinta at the airport.

Macavinta's arrest by Brazilian authorities in February during a routine check led to the discovery that he had faked his death with the help of a relative and a co-worker almost two years ago, the DFA said.

Macavinta jumped ship in November 2003 after his vessel, M/V Athens of the North, docked in Rio Grande do Sul.

He was reported missing until a body of a dead man washed up in a riverbank in Jaguarao, some 250 kilometers from Rio Grande do Sul a month later.

The DFA said that a relative in Cebu had insisted that the body was that of Macavinta's despite investigation results that showed the dead man's fingerprints and dental records did not match those of the missing seaman.

The relative also wanted the Philippine Embassy in Brazil to ship the body back to the Philippines but refused to submit a DNA sample, as recommended by the Brazilian authorities to positively identify the remains as those of Macavinta.

A friend of Macavinta's who was a second mate on the same ship, even presented bloodied clothes of the seaman to the Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (OWWA) office in Cebu, as well as a written statement confirming that the dead man was Macavinta.

Macavinta was discovered to be alive when during the routine check in February, he presented his seaman's record book to Brazilian authorities, that stated his birth date which matched the record on his birth certificate.

Corrections

IN THE THREE-STAR edition of yesterday's issue, the lead paragraph of the front-page banner story—"Another journalist killed in Mindanao"—misstated that broadcaster Klein Cantoneros was ambushed Wednesday afternoon. Cantoneros was ambushed on his way home at 12:30 a.m. Wednesday.

* * *

IN ALL THREE editions of yesterday's issue, the front-page banner story misstated the name of the Philippine Information Agency chief in Zamboanga del Norte. The PIA chief in the province is Czarito—not Zacarito—Zamora.

* * *

IN ALL THREE editions of yesterday's issue, a caption on the front page misstated the source of Klein Cantoneros' photo. The photo was supplied by dxAA-FM, not dxASS-FM.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses: glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent, pending the appointment of a new readers' advocate, to Isagani Yambot, publisher, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address: iyambot@inquirer.com.ph.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, May 6, 2005
6th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 18:9-18
Gospel: John 16:20-23

Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. A woman in childbirth is in distress because her time is at hand. But after the child is born, she no longer remembers her suffering because of such great joy: a human being is born into the world.

"You feel sorrowful now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice. And no one will take your joy from you. When that day comes you will not ask me anything. Truly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my Name, he will give you."

Commentary

Jesus uses the image of a woman giving birth to a child. There is pain, suffering, hard work, stretching to let a child come into the world, to give birth to a human being. There is distress but then the joy almost knows no bounds because of what she has brought forth—new life into the world. And the disciples, and we too, will know such distress at times, such hard work, suffering, but we will know joy beyond expression because Jesus who is risen from the dead, will leave us and yet remain with us in the gift of the Spirit that he will give birth to on the cross as he dies and sends forth his Spirit. His best gift, his own presence, that is by far closer to us than any physical relationship will be given to us. It is the Spirit that will teach us how to pray the Father, in Jesus' name, for all that we need.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

JUDICIAL ETHICS—Presumption of regularity in performance by judge of duties—Notatu dignum is the presumption of regularity in the performance of a judge's functions, hence bias, prejudice and even undue interest cannot be presumed, specially weighed against a judge's sacred allegation under oath of office to administer justice without respect to any person and do equal right to the poor and to the rich. In cases decided by this court, it was held that bare allegations of bias are not enough in the absence of clear and convincing evidence to overcome the presumption that the judge will undertake his noble role to dispense justice according to law and evidence and without fear or favor. There should be clear and convincing evidence to prove the charge of bias and partiality. Extrinsic evidence is required to establish bias, bad faith, malice or corrupt purpose, in addition to the palpable error that may be inferred from the decision or order itself. Although the decision may seem so erroneous as to raise doubts concerning a judge's integrity, absent extrinsic evidence, the decision itself would be insufficient to establish a case against the judge. (Citations omitted.) (Justice Chico-Nazario, Second Division, Mamerto Maniquiz Foundation, Inc. vs Pizarro, A. M. No. RTJ-03-1750, January 14, 2005) BY R. B. VERA

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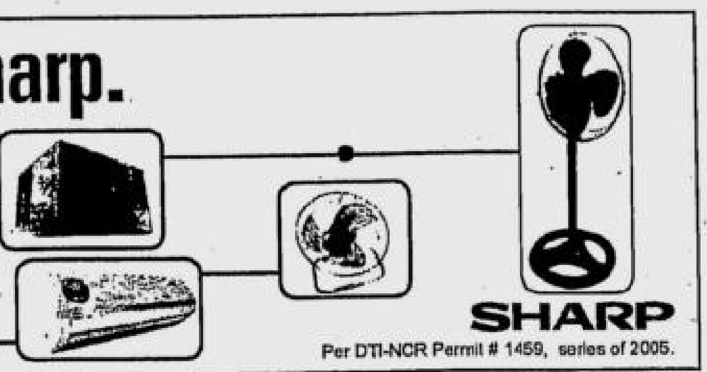

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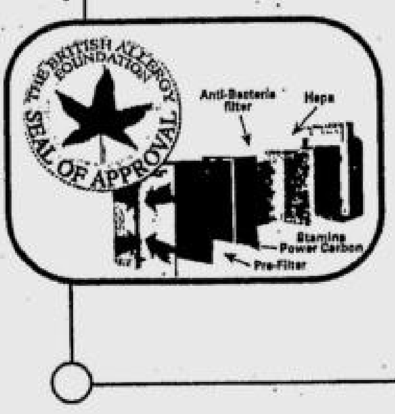

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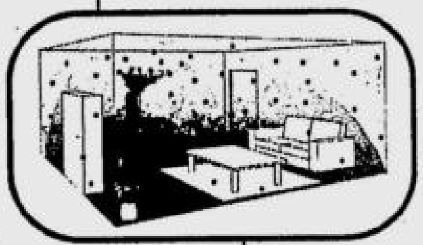

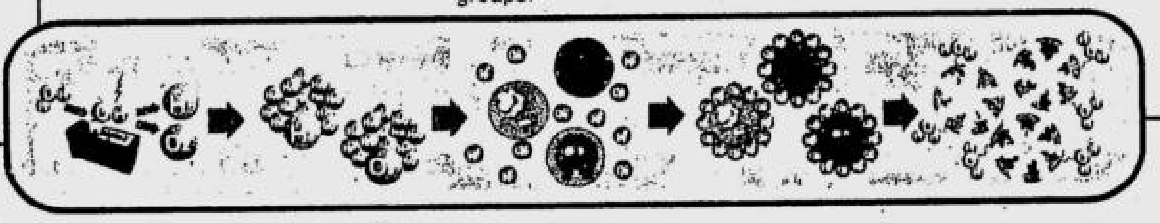

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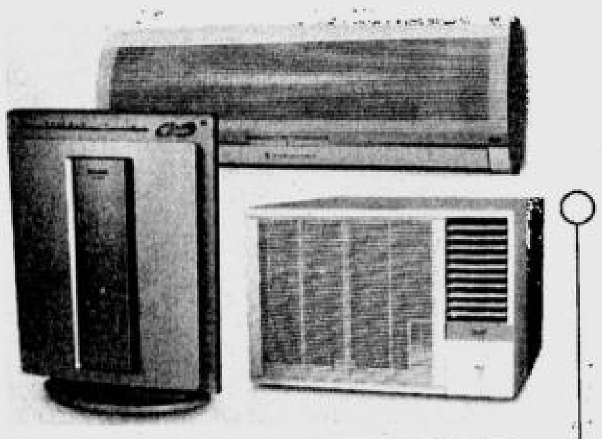

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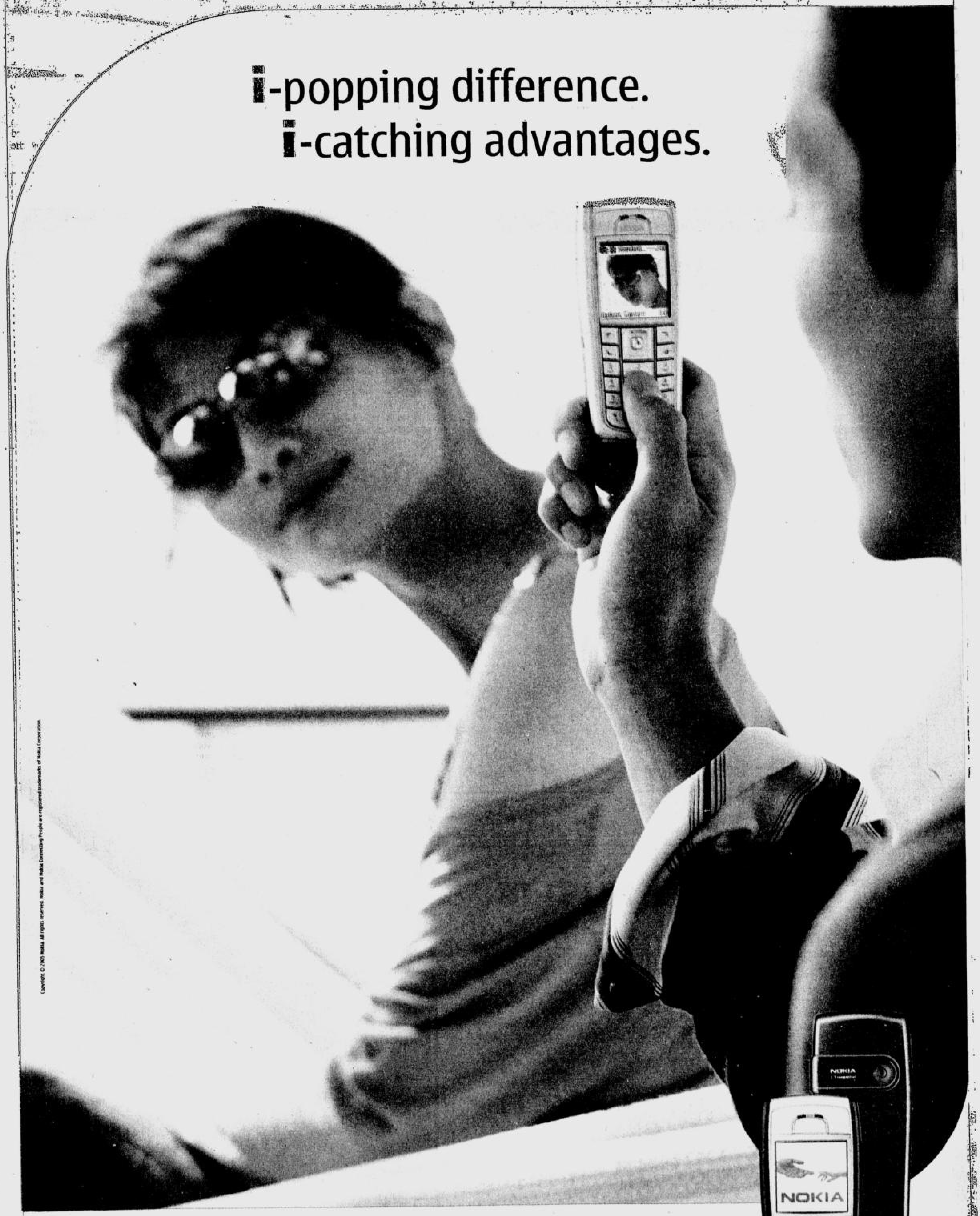

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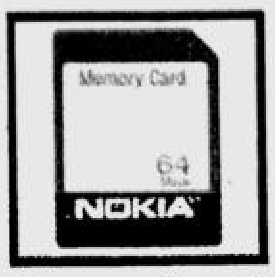
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Mindanao still 'a dangerous situation,' says US official

A VISITING US state department official yesterday said that while Mindanao remains "a dangerous situation" because of the links between international terror groups and the Muslim insurgency there, it was in no immediate danger of becoming a new Afghanistan.

Robert Zoellick, the US deputy secretary of state, spoke to reporters in Malacañang after briefing President Macapagal-Arroyo about US plans for the region and getting an update on the peace efforts in Mindanao.

Zoellick indicated he saw the situation as "very different" from Joseph Mussomeli, the outgoing US Embassy charge d'affaires who caused an uproar in Congress and the media last month when he suggested that terrorism and extreme poverty could turn Mindanao into the next Afghanistan.

"Having watched the issues in Mindanao 15 to 20 years since I was at the state department in 1989, I think there is some progress being made," said Zoellick, who left last night to continue his tour of Southeast Asian nations.

He said the US was appreciative of government efforts to integrate into "development and society" the members of the Moro National Liberation Front, which concluded a peace pact with the government in 1996.

He praised the Philippines for bringing the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front to the negotiating table and passing strong antiterrorist legislation.

But he noted that while peace talks with the MILF were under way, "there's fragmentation among those parties and there are links to the groups that have broader international reach."

"The best way to defeat those is a combination of political, economic, and military and that's what were trying to do here and I know its been the strategy of the government of the Philippines," Zoellick said.

The US official said fighting terrorism would be "a long struggle... but I think as we've learned, we see there's a variety of networks, some formal, some informal."

He said part of the challenge was to "open the doors of opportunity and hope for segments of population that can be reintegrated, split them off from the brutal killers and then hunt down the brutal killers."

Asked whether there were links between the regional Southeast Asian terror network, the Jemaah Islamiyah, and the MILF, Zoellick said: "There has been a connection in the past but I think quite effectively the way to avoid support is by working closely with the Philippine government."

"There's a small but highly destructive group of people who are motivated by hate and wanting to stop democracy freedom and economic modernization and those people would never be reintegrated but they play off a group of other people that might have local concerns or objections," he said.

Splinter groups from the MILF are believed to be forging links with the JI blamed for a string of deadly attacks in the region, including the 2002 Bali bombing that killed more than 200 people.

Several arrested militants linked to the MILF have told government prosecutors that the JI helped fund bombing attacks in Manila in 2000 that killed several dozen people.

Christine Avendaño and agencies

MILF agrees to mediate on MNLF breakaway rebs

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) is trying to persuade armed rebels loyal to detained leader Nur Misuari to stop the three-month-old fighting in Sulu, a military spokesperson said yesterday.

Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, Armed Forces public information chief, said the MILF leadership had agreed to mediate between the military and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) fighters to end hostilities.

"The AFP is happy to inform the public of the MILF effort and assistance in talking to members of the Misuari Breakaway Group (MBG) for the resolution of conflict in Sulu province," Pascual said.

He said Brig. Gen. Ramon Santos, co-chair of the joint government-MILF coordinating committee on the cessation of hostilities, had denied reports that the MILF had joined forces with armed loyalists of Misuari, former leader of the MNLF.

"There is no truth to the report of MNLF and MILF joining forces. (General Santos) said he had clarified this matter with the MILF. The MILF leadership is offering assistance or mediation to resolve the conflict with the MBG in Sulu," said Pascual.

In February, fierce skirmishes between government troops and combined forces of the MNLF headed by Habier Malik and the Abu Sayyaf under Commander Radullan Sahiron broke out in Sulu, after the Muslim rebels blamed the military for the deaths of a family of four.

Nearly 40 soldiers and an estimated 70 to 100 rebels have died since then.

Thousands of soldiers remain deployed in various parts of Sulu to hunt for the rebel forces.

Pascual's statement came at a time when the government and the MILF have resumed peace negotiations aimed at ending the decades-old separatist rebellion in Mindanao.

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RP VICTIMS' AGES UNKNOWN

Aussie escapes child sex charges

SYDNEY, Australia—Prosecutors on Thursday dropped six charges against an Australian man accused of having sex with underage girls in the Philippines because a judge ruled the alleged victims' ages could not be proved.

Ronald Morris King, 59, was due to stand trial in Sydney's District Court this week on seven charges, including having sex with a girl younger than 16 and engaging in child sex tourism, which is a crime in Australia.

But Judge Joe Gibson ruled inadmissible evidence that prosecutors said proved the two alleged victims were underage. Prosecutors said they couldn't prove the case without the thrown-out evidence.

King pleaded guilty to one charge of importing child pornography, and was ordered to remain in custody until he is sentenced on July 1. It was not immediately clear what maximum penalty he faces.

King was arrested after being found with two girls in his room at the Cherry Blossoms Hotel in Manila on June 11 last year, Filipino detective Delfin Cruz Silva told the court.

Four photographs of the girls taken by King before his arrest were presented to the court as evidence.

Prosecutors were relying on the photographs and the expert opinion of a pediatrician—who testified at a pretrial hearing the girls were likely aged between nine and 13—to prove the two girls were underage.

The child pornography charge stemmed from a roll film King was carrying as he returned to Sydney from the Philippines that contained pornographic images of children.

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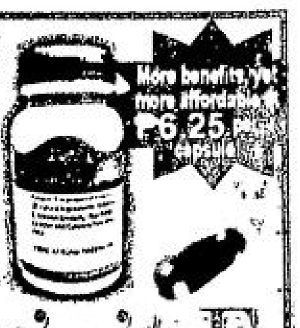

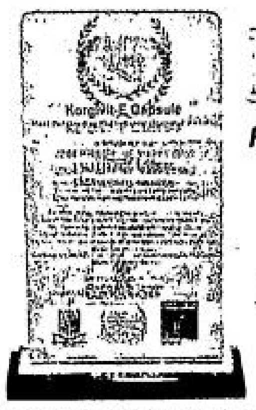

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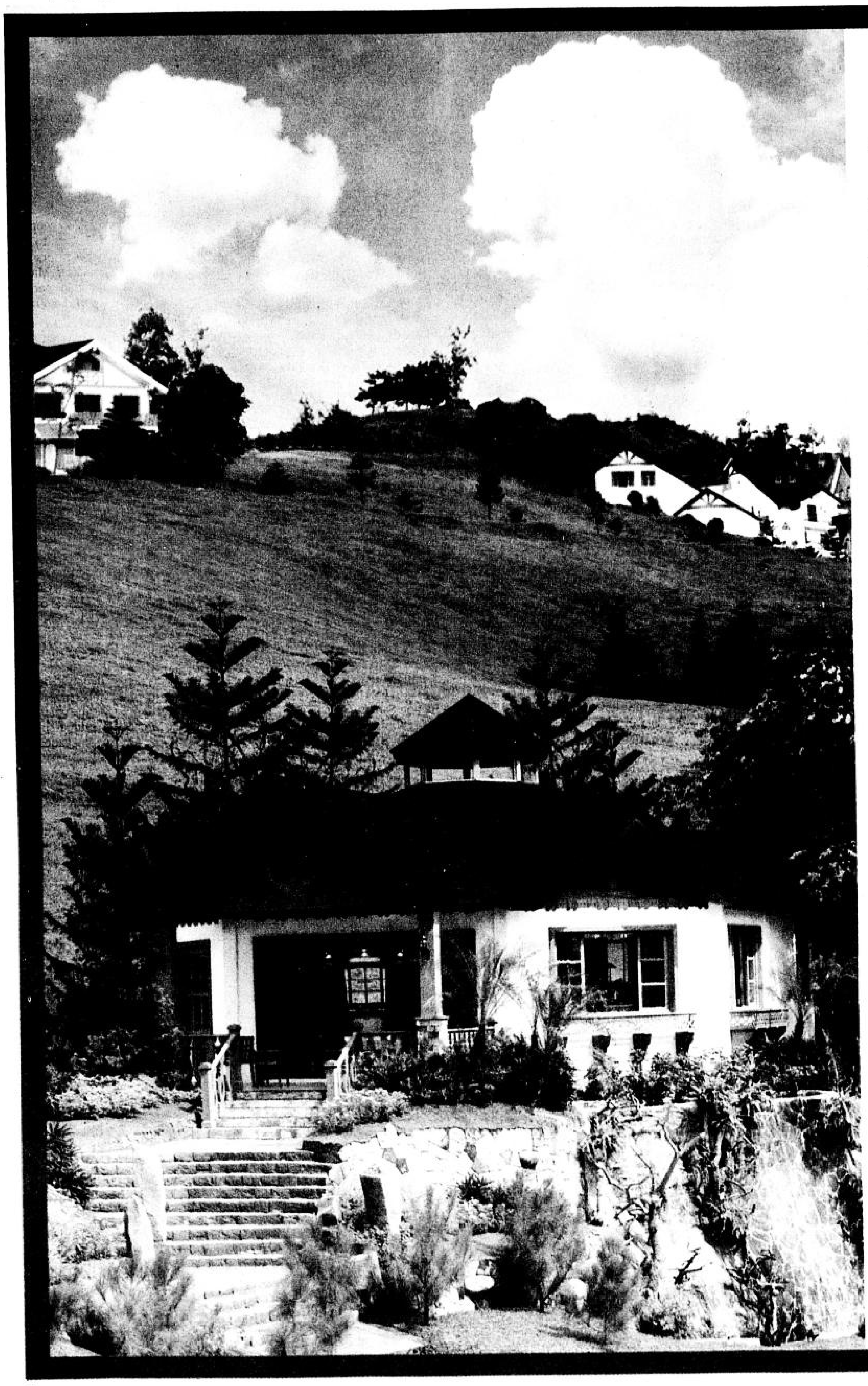

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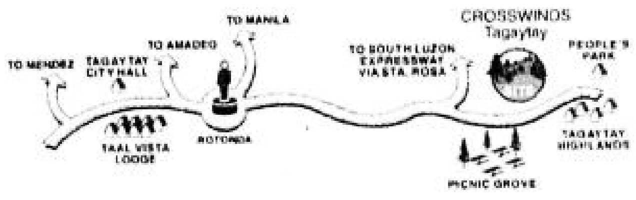

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The NRDC Engine Replacement Program

By Angelico Salud
NRDC President

IN 2001, Natural Resources Development Corp. (NRDC) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Association of the Philippines (Fejodap) and Pilipinas Engine Remanufacturing and Reconditioning Corp. (PERRC) for the financing of the replacement of diesel engines of passenger jeepneys.

Aging diesel engines had been identified as the single largest mobile source of air pollution in violation of the Clean Air Act. The ERP aims to provide jeepney drivers with viable alternatives to an outright phaseout so as not to disrupt their means of livelihood. At the same time, the alternatives should be in compliance with environmental laws.

Under the MOA, the government through NRDC would finance the acquisition and sale of reconditioned diesel engines to replace the engines of jeepneys. Fejodap has an estimated 250,000 members nationwide, 55,000 of whom are in Metro Manila. The Engine Replacement Program (ERP) is intended to be expanded to include not just the members of Fejodap, but all jeepney associations nationwide and, eventually, even bus groups.

Due to lack of funds on the part of NRDC, the ERP was discontinued.

In 2004, A. T. Intergrouppe Inc. (ATI) made a proposal to take over the financing of the ERP in partnership with Iveco, Europe's leading engine manufacturer. Under ATI's proposal, it would take on the burden of financing the program by selling to Fejodap's members brand new diesel engines, as opposed to reconditioned engines, on installment basis.

The terms of the loans to jeepney drivers was for three years at an interest of 12 percent per annum, at the price of P120,000 per engine.

In February 2005, ATI's proposed new MOA was approved by the NRDC board of directors chaired by retired Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus.

The following were the advantages of the new MOA: (1) Government would no longer be the funder. Instead, NRDC as the corporate arm of the Department of Environment and Natural resources would be the agency in charge of implementing the ERP in compliance with the Clean Air Act. (2) The funder would now be ATI, a privately owned corporation with experience in the construction of automotive plants and engine replacement.

(3) ATI and Iveco would establish a world-class engine replacement plant in the country. (4) NRDC makes no commitment that ATI's application for a guarantee cover from Trade and Investment Development Corp. (also known as PhilEximbank) would be approved. (5) The NRDC board of directors specifically discussed that ATI should provide sufficient collateral for the guarantee being sought.

Under the foregoing factual premises, the project under the new MOA was approved by the NRDC board of directors on its merits.

Reason why Corpus quit

From page A1

corp (Trade and Investment Development Corp., which is also known as the Philippine Export-Import Credit Agency)), a government financing institution, according to the source.

Tidcorp is the former Philippine Export and Loan Guarantee Corp. (Philguarantee).

Corpus quit four months after he was appointed as the "principal overseer of all reforestation programs of the government nationwide."

Corpus, 60, said in his brief resignation letter—following the April 21 resignation of Haydee Yorac, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government—that he wanted to "spend more time with my family."

But the INQUIRER learned that his sudden resignation was provoked by a run-in with Defensor over a project that had nothing to do with reforestation.

P10M offered

When the resolution was encountering opposition in the board, NRDC president Angelico Salud, said to be associated with Defensor, talked to Noel Lozada, who was helping Corpus on a reforestation program, the INQUIRER source said.

The source said Lozada informed Corpus that Salud had allegedly offered P10 million "to approve the project."

When Corpus heard this, he became more adamant about disapproving it. Salud told Lozada that *"na kompromiso na dito si Mike* (presumably referring to Defensor), according to the source.

Other members of the NRDC board are Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, Trade Secretary Juan Santos, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima, Development Bank of the Philippines chair Vitaliano Nañagas and Neda director general Romulo Neri. Neda refers to the National Economic and Development Authority.

No pressure

Salud denied yesterday offering P10 million. Lozada was not available for interview despite repeated telephone calls.

"There was no pressure on General Corpus by me or by Secretary Mike Defensor," Salud told the INQUIRER last night when asked about the alleged bribe offer. "The Secretary totally relinquished the reins on NRDC upon the appointment of General Corpus."

The NRDC president said "it is highly incongruous and illogical for there to be a bribe on the part of the private proponent given the fact that there is no money coming out of government coffers."

"Finally, who am I, a neophyte in government compared with a veteran general like Corpus to put pressure on him, and how much more to bribe him," Salud said.

Under a memorandum of agreement approved by the NRDC board in February, the project would cost $180 million and would involve putting up a plant in the country for the manufacture of diesel engines, according to Salud. [See background on NRDC Engine Replacement Program.]

The engines will be sold first to members of Fejodap (Federation of Jeepney Operators and Drivers Associations of the Philippines) and later to other jeepney groups. The program will be expanded to cover buses, according to Salud. In 2004, there were 214,577 public utility jeepneys and 24,080 public utility buses registered with the Land Transportation Office.

Salud said the project would be implemented at no cost to the government.

Less supportive

After the contract fell through, Corpus began to feel that Defensor was becoming less supportive of the reforestation program. "Without his support," Corpus said, "we can't move fast in reforestation."

Things came to head when the NRDC began collecting the government's share of the gold mined in Diwalwal, Moncaya, Davao. NRDC staff had collected 2 kg of gold which was turned over to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

No longer effective

Defensor's men on the board delayed paying the NRDC staff. So they went on strike last week. The strike prompted Corpus' resignation. "I felt I was no longer in an effective in the position," he said.

Log ban lifted

The administration's determination to stop the depletion of the remaining forest cover became suspect when it lifted the total logging ban that was imposed following the flash floods and landslides that killed hundreds of people in Aurora, Quezon and Nueva Ecija in November and December last year. The landslides were blamed on logging in the Sierra Madre range.

In March, Defensor issued a memorandum allowing logging operations in Region 11 (Davao) and Caraga, the last frontier for the country's forest reserves. Logging in the area was resumed in response to the clamor of the furniture industry, which claimed thousands of people stood to lose their jobs.

The job of the NRDC is to plant trees in denuded areas, Corpus said. In protected areas, there should be no logging. There should be a "total log ban in virgin forests."

In areas already denuded but replanted, farmers who had replanted trees should be allowed to harvest, to give them an incentive for replanting.

Slowdown

Clearly, from the beginning of his appointment as reforestation overseer, the government and Corpus were not of the same mind about reforestation. It did not take long for the showdown to occur.

His resignation cast doubt on the political will of the administration to pursue a reforestation program and to crack down on illegal logging.

When Corpus was appointed to the NRDC, President Macapagal-Arroyo, to the applause of municipal mayors, said "I am also making him the principal executive to lay out and implement a special operational plan—with the full support" of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. *With additional data from PDI Research*

3 'influential' men suspects in newsman's slay

From page A1

when he was ambushed. At least seven bullets tore into his body.

The victim was rushed to a government hospital, but he died shortly before midnight, a day after the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) announced that the Philippines had become the most murderous place for media men since 2000.

Police officials formally created Task Force Cantoneros to investigate the killing, along with the National Bureau of Investigation.

Targets of criticisms

Adriatico said Catoneros had been criticizing local and provincial government officials, military, police officials and some individuals during the past three weeks based on an initial review of tape recordings of his program, "Nasud Pagmata Na (Nation, Wake Up Now)."

Local journalists also said that for over a year, Cantoneros had been denouncing how certain government officials had been conducting themselves as public servants. In one instance, he exposed the practice of using government vehicles when the officials went on nights out, they said.

Among the subjects of his criticism were Gov. Rolando Yebes and Dipolog Mayor Dominador Jalosjos.

"The criticism ranged from alleged mismanagement, corruption and very private or personal affairs," Adriatico said.

Gov reacts

When contacted by the INQUIRER, Yebes said he had no axe to grind against Cantoneros.

He said that "personally," he did not hear Cantoneros talk about him or his administration because he was advised not to listen to him.

Yebes said the death of Cantoneros, whom he considered an asset of his political opponents, must not be given political color. "I don't think there is a political connection to the killing."

Jalosjos could not be reached for comment as of press time last night.

Cantoneros also tackled complaints sent in by radio listeners through mobile phone text messages, letters and personal accounts relayed to him on or off the air. The complaints were usually about ineptitude, corruption and wrongdoings, especially of public officials, according to his colleagues.

Yebes said he wanted a speedy investigation and offered a reward of at least P50,000 to those who could provide details about the killers.

Male companion

Supt. Tomas Hizon, Dipolog police chief, said investigators were trying to locate a man who was with Cantoneros shortly before he was killed. The two were seen "roaming around downtown," he said.

Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, commander of the Western Area Police office, said the police lost a good start in the investigation with the death of the broadcaster. "We are again starting from scratch and the situation is that we are looking for scarce pieces of evidences," he said.

Investigators said that before he died, Cantoneros was able to talk to his younger brother. But he failed to identify his attackers, they said.

"We are having a hard time pursuing the suspects now because we don't have any actual eyewitness account, just a recovered pistol from the crime scene and some empty shells," Adriatico said.

The police officer said Cantoneros fought back by trading shots with his attackers. A homemade Remington pistol and three empty shells were recovered near the victim's body.

Gun battle

"There was a gun battle, we recovered a firearm near the victim, and beside Cantoneros, there were three empty shells, so he fired back," Adriatico said.

He said police records did not show that Cantoneros was a licensed gun owner.

But Querol said it would be unfair to presume that Cantoneros owned the gun or that he had fired it during the ambush. He said only experts could say whether the slain broadcaster had fired a gun.

"First, we have to find out who owns the gun, and if ever Cantoneros was using the gun, then we will find out from the owner of the gun why Cantoneros borrowed it, what's the motive and we will also determine through tests if indeed the victim was able to fire back," Querol said.

Adriatico claimed that Cantoneros had never told police that he was being threatened. *Hernan P. dela Cruz, Julie S. Alipala and Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Luige del Puerto in Manila*

Bishop: Another 'jueteng' probe resolves nothing

From page A1

should be revealed because it is very easy to say five officials with no names."

Despite criticism that the Arroyo administration had allowed jueteng to flourish, Bunye gave assurances that the appropriate agencies would respond as long as the information was "credible and validated."

Cruz said jueteng operations were worse now than during the term of former President Joseph Estrada, who was ousted following the accusation that he had received payoffs from jueteng operators.

A top PNP official on the list that Cruz submitted to Congress allegedly receives as much as P19.6 million monthly from jueteng collections remitted by 15 operators in 24 provinces.

Bagman

The officer, barely two months in his high-profile post, is a key figure in the resurrected campaign against illegal gambling. His alleged "bagman" is a senior superintendent assigned to the PNP's key investigation unit.

Cruz has been careful about naming the persons on his list, admitting that the document might not stand up in court.

This "handicap" is apparently the reason some politicians suspected of involvement in jueteng operations were "so brave" as to issue categorical denials and even challenge whistle-blowers to name them, a confessed "bagman" at the PNP told the INQUIRER.

"They know well that transactions don't have receipts. So where will you get the paper trail?" he said. "But we know within our circle who gets jueteng money and who does not."

Dilemma

Cruz on Wednesday admitted he was facing a similar dilemma.

"We're not jueteng lords and beneficiaries," he said. "Our sources are from inside and outside of the government. We hold their information to be true because we can compare notes and many sources are saying one and the same thing."

Cruz has twitted the government's demands for "scientific" proof on his allegations as "a little out of tune" and "not relevant."

The probe in Congress was triggered by a report in the INQUIRER citing a police official who had claimed that three relatives of a top government official with the code names M1, M2 and JS7 were receiving millions of pesos in monthly jueteng money.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and his son, Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo, had denied any involvement in the illegal numbers game. They were reacting to suggestions that they were the relatives of the top government official reportedly receiving huge amounts in jueteng payoffs.

Bunye said Malacañang preferred that the investigation be resolved at the congressional level. "We have to finish it there but those who will testify should give credible information and not based on unvalidated information," he said.

At the House committee hearing, critics scored the President's eldest son for his lack of "delicadeza" by sitting in on the probe of jueteng into which he was being dragged.

But Malacañang praised the young Arroyo for being "macho" in choosing to personally defend himself against insinuations that he was getting a piece of the P13 billion a year in payoffs from the illegal numbers game.

At a briefing, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita did not see anything wrong with the young Arroyo's participation in the congressional committee hearing on Tuesday.

'Guerrilla tactics' while heat is on

From page A1

He said the "staff" who run the jueteng draw were "fast workers."

Once the numbers are drawn, the list of numbers on the betting list are reviewed and the winning bets are circled with a red pen. The winning numbers are also stamped on a strip of paper, which are then given to the bettors as proof of the draw.

If a lucky bettor had chosen the winning combination, the strip of paper would be delivered to the winner with the prize money.

The draws are supervised by the "cabo" who gets P1,000 a day, and assisted by the "taga rebisa" (reviewers) who check the list of bets and the "taga-tatak," referring to the person who stamps the winning combination on a strip of paper for distribution to the bettors and winners.

A reviewer receives P500 a day while the one doing the stamping is paid P50 per draw, according to the bet collector.

Business slow

He said the spate of reports about the alleged involvement of government officials in jueteng had affected the operation of the illegal numbers game.

"Business is slow because of the anti-jueteng campaign," the bet collector said.

Jueteng is a game of chance in which a bettor can choose a combination of two numbers from 1 to 37. The winning numbers are drawn from the 37 numbered balls or "bolilyo" placed inside a specially designed bottle.

The process of drawing the winning numbers could take from 30 to 45 minutes. Once the winning numbers are known, the "bookies" then deliver the prize money to the winner.

A bet of one peso could win P400. However, in the Quezon City village where the INQUIRER source collects bets, the minimum bet is P5. This could win P2,000, with 10 percent of the prize money going to the bet collector.

For the Wednesday night draw, he said he was able to collect bets totaling P80, from which he earned a 15-percent commission or P12. The morning and noon draws also had a low turnout; his commission had fallen way below the daily average of P75.

"I just get centavos these days. But I get a windfall if a bettor wins several times in one day," he said.

During Holy Week, for instance, one bettor won in all the three draws in a day for a total of P26,000. It also meant a windfall of P2,600 for the bookie.

"And not only that, she (the winner) also brought me to the grocery and paid for my purchases," he said.

To die for

But since it's gambling for the have-nots, a prize of P3,600 could send someone into near cardiac arrest, he said.

Recently, a regular bettor confided to him about a much-needed medical checkup. When informed the next day that his numbers had won, the bettor fainted.

"I punched his back and slapped his face to bring him back to consciousness," the bookie said.

When the winning bettor regained consciousness, he still could not believe he had won. But his neighbors were teasing the lucky gambler, recalled the bookie, quoting them as saying, "You could die because of P3,600."

Honesty

But there's a good side to this job of collecting jueteng bets, he said.

"It's good exercise because I get to walk around several blocks," the bookie, who has diabetes and hypertension, said.

While bookies have been told "never to give their names" when arrested, the INQUIRER source believes this is one job that is based on honesty and trust.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RP's best PRs offer help to salvage GMA image

From page A1

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye was quick to dismiss the sensing that President Macapagal-Arroyo was seeking help from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) because she was disappointed with the performance of her official publicists. Bunye said the PRSP's offer to make its resources available, its organizational machinery, its collective talent and its international network so the country's public relations goals are achieved was for free.

"This support is unsolicited but this is very welcome. We need the support and assistance of all sectors," Bunye said in a briefing.

In an interview, PRSP president Amylyn C. Sison de Quiros said the group would provide the government with free seminars and training and share its members' "established PR strategies."

For the country

"We'd like to be of help as PR professionals. We're doing it for the country because for the past years we have been having a bad press. Since we are communicators in our own right, we believe PRSP can be relevant," De Quiros said.

The PRSP submitted its "Declaration of Support for Building the Domestic and International Image of the Government's Development Initiatives" to the President during the induction of its new officers in Malacañang yesterday.

The 43-year-old PRSP described itself as a "national organization of PR professionals with wide domestic and international contacts with a wealth of experience in enhancing reputation and building image."

New media agency

The PRSP's offer to lend a hand to salvage the Arroyo administration's battered image came less than 12 months after the President overhauled Malacañang's PR machine by superimposing a new body, the Office of the Communication Director (led by Silvestre Afable), over the existing Palace media apparatus.

The OCD oversees the operations of Bunye (as press secretary and spokesperson), Cerge Remonde (head of government-owned radio and television stations) and Renato Velasco (chief of the Philippine Information Agency).

Record-low popularity

The new media arm of Malacañang, which has a combined budget of P808 million this year, has done little to shore up the President's popularity, which has fallen to a record low since her election in May 2004.

The President has long been frustrated with the inability of her PR people to convey to the public what she has done in terms of uplifting the lives of Filipinos. This was the reason she overhauled Malacañang's media machine.

The PRSP itself declared in its manifesto that "the global community has yet to fully appreciate these initiatives [of the President in socio, political and economic development] that would result in more investment confidence and in more tourist inflows."

De Quiros stressed that PRSP's offer should not be taken negatively.

Bunye refused to say whether his office and the Malacañang media machine were communicating the good news to the public about the President's achievements. He also did not say if the President was satisfied with their performance.

"This is a continuous effort; we are committed to do our work in trying to explain the programs and policies of the President and the entire administration. Even in a corporate setup, the CEO or COO, who is not running for office, still has to communicate the aims of the organization down the line," Bunye said.

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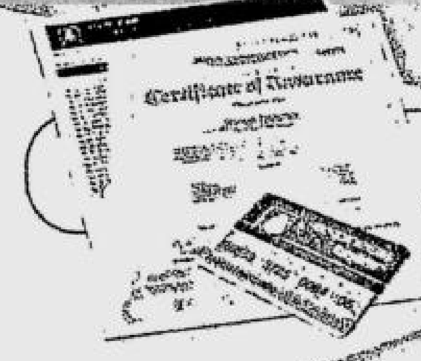
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Al-Qaida's 3rd ranking leader captured

ISLAMABAD—The capture by Pakistani forces of al-Qaida's alleged third in command has raised hopes that information gleaned from him may lead to the elusive Osama bin Laden, security officials said Thursday.

Abu Faraj al-Libbi, the suspected mastermind of two attempts to kill President Pervez Musharraf, has a key role in the terror network, according to a copy of a classified US Central Intelligence Agency list seen by AFP.

The CIA list of most wanted men dating from last year put al-Libbi at number three after Bin Laden and his Egyptian deputy Ayman Al-Zawahiri, calling him the "newly reported chief of external operations for al-Qaida."

It says he has a $5-million bounty on his head and goes on to describe him as "senior al-Qaida operations commander and personal assistant of Bin Laden."

Pakistan announced on Wednesday that it had captured the Libyan national after a brief shootout two days earlier in the northwest of the country. He was also Pakistan's most wanted man.

Security officials said they believe al-Libbi has been in contact with Bin Laden and al-Zawahiri, whose whereabouts remain a mystery three years after a US-led invasion toppled the Taliban, their hosts in neighboring Afghanistan.

US and Pakistani officials have said they believe the pair are hiding in the mountainous border region between Pakistan and Afghanistan, but there has been no sign of either.

AL-LIBBI in wanted poster

"Al-Libbi is one of Bin Laden's closest confidants and he should be able to provide new leads about both Osama and Ayman Al-Zawahiri," a senior security official involved in anti al-Qaida operations in Pakistan said on condition of anonymity.

Information Minister Sheikh Rashid said al-Libbi was being interrogated by Pakistan security forces at an undisclosed location.

US President George W. Bush welcomed al-Libbi's capture, calling it "a critical victory" in the global war on terrorism declared by Washington after Bin Laden's network carried out the Sept. 11 attacks.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the arrest underlined Pakistan's resolve in the battle against terrorism. Pakistan had posted a reward of 20 million rupees ($333,333) for al-Libbi's arrest.

Officials said al-Libbi took over al-Qaida operations in Pakistan after the arrest in March 2003 of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the key planner of Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on United States and the network's former third in command.

"Through Khalid Sheikh Mohammed we learnt that Bin Laden was alive, and we hope al-Libbi should take us further," the official said.

Military leader Musharraf has previously named al-Libbi as the ringleader in the attempts to assassinate him in December 2003.

In the first, militants blew up a road bridge as he drove past while the second happened on Christmas Day, when suicide bombers detonated their vehicles near his motorcade, killing more than a dozen.

Police sources said the militant was captured in a dramatic gunbattle after he and another man riding a motorcycle near a shrine in the town of Mardan were intercepted on an intelligence tip off. *AFP*

Berlusconi: Blame cannot be excluded in agent's death

ROME—Premier Silvio Berlusconi said Thursday that he disagreed with some of the US military's conclusions into the March shooting death of an Italian agent in Baghdad.

But he said those differences won't affect Italy's friendship with Washington or its deployment of Italian troops in Iraq.

Berlusconi differed with the major conclusions by US military investigators into the March 4 shooting death of Nicola Calipari by US soldiers. The premier contended that the checkpoint wasn't properly marked and that responsibility for the troops can't be ruled out.

"The absence of deliberateness doesn't indeed rule out blame," Berlusconi told lawmakers in the Chamber of Deputies, three days after Italy issued its own report, concluding that inexperience and fatigue played a role in the fatal shooting.

The slaying, as well the American conclusions that the soldiers bore no responsibility for the death of the agent, angered Italians. Calipari had just helped free an Italian hostage and was considered a hero.

Italians largely opposed the war in Iraq, and the US conclusions cranked up pressure on Berlusconi to bring home Italy's 3,000 troops.

But Berlusconi confirmed Thursday that the troop deployment would continue.

"We have no intention of establishing any connection between the assessment of the case in which our official lost his life and the role of our country in Iraq," the conservative premier said. *AP*

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MONDAY TO TUESDAY, MAY 9-10, 2005

MANDALUYONG CITY

BETWEEN 11:00PM AND 11:30PM (MON., 05/09/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 6:30AM AND 7:00AM (TUE., 05/10/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS MANDALUYONG 52VD AND 54VD

Portion of Shaw Blvd. from Samat St. to Epifanio de los Santos Ave. (EDSA) in Bgy. Highway Hills.

Portion of Libertad St. from Calbayog St. to and including portions of EDSA and Reliance St. in Bgy. Highway Hills.

BETWEEN 11:00PM (MON., 05/09/05) AND 7:00AM (TUE., 05/10/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS MANDALUYONG 52VD AND 54VD

Portion of Samat and Calbayog Sts. from Libertad St. to Shaw Blvd. in Bgy. Highway Hills.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Calbayog St. in Bgy. Highway Hills, Mandaluyong City.

MANILA (STA. CRUZ)

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (MON., 05/09/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:00AM AND 5:30AM (TUE., 05/10/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS NORTH PORT 49H AND NORTH PORT 53H-PALOMAR 41L

Portion of A. Rivera St. from Meralco-Palomar substation to Tayuman St. including Bambang, Quiricada, Yakal, Masangkay, Mayhaligue and S.Reyes Sts.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (MON., 05/09/05) AND 5:30AM (TUE., 05/10/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS NORTH PORT 51H – BINONDO 43N, NORTH PORT 53H – PALOMAR 41L, NORTH PORT 49H AND 12H

Along Railroad Track and Dagupan St. from Meralco-North Port substation to Juan Luna St. including Tayuman St.

REASON: Replacement of rotten poles along Railroad Track in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2005

CAVITE

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:45PM AND 2:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS IMUS 34WK, IMUS 36WK – ABUBOT 34XZ AND PALICO 39ZE - IMUS 35WK

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from Palico Road to Meralco-Cavite Distribution Headquarters including Monti Textile Corp., Plaridel Subd., Villa Leticia, Lily Pia Subd., Villa Amparo, Villa Nicasia, Southern City Homes, Holiday Village, Independence St., Holiday Ave., Pacmac, Better Life Subd., Doña Dionisia Subd., New Imus Village, Metrobank, portion of Bgy. Tanzang Luma in Imus; Philta Industries, Dara Subd. and Bgy. Salitran I in Dasmariñas.

Along Nuevo Ave. from Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway to and including Tahimik St., Imus Public Market, Vina Village, Imus Institute, Imus Municipal Hall, Imus Parish Church, Gen. Garcia Park, Del Pilar Academy, Imus Museum - Camp Garcia, Imus Municipal Academy, Poblacion 4, Gen. Castañeda, Tirona, Gen. Satorre Sts. in Imus; Villanueva, Elises and Abella Sts. in Bacoor.

Along Bayan Luma Road from Aguinaldo Highway to and including Bo. Manalo, Iglesia ni Kristo, Bgy. Alapan II, Bliss Housing in Gen. Trias, Mary-Cris Homes, Bo. Bucandala, Villa Feliciana Subd. and Sarreal Subd. in Imus.

Along Malagasang Road from Bayan Luma Road to near Christian Joan School including Pag-asa Subd., Bgy. Malagasang I, Manuela Subd., MWSS, Mandarin Homes II, Hayag Motor Works and Machine Shop and Francis Rice Mill in Imus.

REASON: Maintenance work inside Meralco-Imus substation.

BULACAN

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:45PM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS CALUMPIT 32YQ, 38YQ AND 325YQ

Portion of Iba O' Este and Palapat Roads from Bgy. Sta. Monica to and including Bgy. San Isidro in Paombong. Bgys. Hangas, Sto. Niño, San Sebastian, San Nicolas and Marulao in Hagonoy.

Portion of Balungao and San Agustin Roads from Bgy. Sta. Lucia to and including Bgys. Sto. Rosario, San Pascual, Sta. Cruz, San Roque, Mercado, San Jose, Sta Monica, Tampoc and San Isidro in Hagonoy.

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS CALUMPIT 38YQ AND 325YQ

Portion of McArthur Highway from Meralco-Calumpit substation to and including Bgys. Gatbuca, Capalangan, Frances and Calumpit Institute in Calumpit.

Portion of Pulilan-Calumpit National Road from McArthur Highway to and including Dampol – 3, Jer-Sel Marketing, Foster Foods, Feedmix Specialist, Robsens Inc., MC Maru Industrial Corp., Northeast Knitex, Roots Mfg. and Prime Link Garments in Calumpit.

REASON: Relocation of poles along McArthur Highway in Calumpit, Bulacan affected by DPWH road-widening project.

TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, MAY 10-11, 2005

QUEZON PROVINCE (LUCENA CITY AND PAGBILAO)

BETWEEN 11:00PM (TUE., 05/10/05) AND 5:00AM (WED., 05/11/05) – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS LUCENA II 11ZH AND PAGBILAO 11WD AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAYABAS 44ZY

Portion of Allarey St. from Mount Carmel Hospital to near Magallanes St. including P. Burgos St.

Portion of Burgos St. from Gaisano Mall to Allarey St. including Pacific Mall.

Portion of Rizal, C. M. Recto, Juarez Sts., Market Ave., Duhat St. and Bonifacio Drive from Allarey St. to Maharlika Highway including Lucena City Public Market, Market View, Papaya, Don Crisanto and Duhat Sts.

Portion of Gomez St. and Lucena – Pagbilao Maharlika Highway from Allarey St. to and including the whole of town of Pagbilao; San Francisco Village, Sto. Niño Subd., Villa San Lorenzo, Villa Juliana Subd., Familyland Subd., University Village, Site Subd., Broadcast Ville and Calmar Homes in Ibabang Dupay and Kanlurang Mayao, Lucena City.

Portion of Dalahican Road from Lucena – Pagbilao Maharlika Highway to and including Lucena Fishing Port, Bureau of Fisheries, Hillsview Subd., Lucena Heights Subd., Bgys. Barrira, Talao – Talao and Mayao, Lucena City.

REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside TransCo – Tayabas substation.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2005

LAGUNA (VICTORIA)

BETWEEN 8:00AM AND 5:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT LOS BAÑOS 421WT

Along Bgy. Masapang Road from Victoria – Pila National Road near Maranatha Christian Academy to near Victoria – Nagcarlan boundary.

REASON: Transco repair work along Calauan – Kalayaan 230 kV transmission lines in Bgy. Masapang, Victoria, Laguna.

CAVITE

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:45PM AND 2:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUITS ABUBOT 37XZ, 38XZ AND 39XZ

Portion of Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway from near Imus-Dasmariñas boundary to near Meralco-Pala-Pala substation including Arcontica Subd. Resort, Crescent Hills Village, Villa Remedios, Southfield Subd., Villa Luisa Homes, portion of Don Placido Campo Drive, Magsaysay Institute of Shipping, Via Verde Village, Cantimbuhan Rice Mill, St. Charbel South, Cityland Greenbreeze Subd., Bo. Lankaan, Magno Gonzales, Sitio de Fuego in Dasmariñas, Monterey Farms, Berlite Industries, Gen. Trias-Amadeo Road, ADC Ready Mix, Bgy. Manggahan, Metro South Subd. and Sitio Santusan in Gen. Trias.

Along Salitran Road including Sunnycrest Village, Summerwind Village, Summer Meadow Subd., South Meridian Homes, Garden Grove 1-4, Andreaville Executive Homes, TUP-Dasmariñas, The Orchard Golf and Country Club and Raintree Homes in Dasmariñas.

Portion of Molino Road from Salitran Road to near Queen's Row Road including San Miguel I, Georgetown Heights Subd., St. Mary Homes, Springville West, Molino 3, Annaville Subd. and Progressive Village 5 in Bacoor.

Portion of Gov. D. Mangubat Ave. from Gen. E. Aguinaldo Highway to Congressional South Road including University Medical Center, Jopauen Realty, Student Village, Bgy. Burol, Manuela Village, Summerwind IV and Southcrest Village in Dasmariñas.

Along Congressional South Road including Burol I and II, Areas C and H, Sta. Fe, Clusters B and D, San Francisco, Citihomes, Bo. San Mateo, Bo. Pag-asa, Victoria Reyes Props., Acacia Homes, San Andres 2 and San Roque in Dasmariñas.

REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco-Abubot substation.

CAVITE (INDANG AND TRECE MARTIREZ CITY)

BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:15AM AND THEN BETWEEN 1:45PM AND 2:00PM – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT TMC–I 32XW AND PORTION OF CIRCUIT SILANG 32WS

Portion of Trece Martirez - Indang Highway from Meralco-TMC-I substation to and including Petron gas station, Indang Municipal Hall, Bgys. Mataas Na Lupa, Kayquit, Buna Cerca, Mahabang Kahoy, Buna Lejos, Bancod, Calumpang Cerca, Agusos, Calumpang Lejos, Banaba Cerca, Kaytambog, Tambo, Guyam Malaki, Lumampong, Pulo, Guyam, P. Burgos, De Ocampo, Dimabiling Sts., Cocoville Subd., Dr. A. Pio de Roda Elem. School, Calumpang Western Cavite Institute, Don Severino Agricultural College, Cavite State University, St. Gregory Academy, Diana Western Cavite Institute, JTD Feeds in Indang, William Ong, Jaro Devt. Corp., Cavite Feedmills, Tradition Homes, Andres Bonifacio Hospital, Marcin's Egg Farm, Public Safety Bldg., Capitol Hills, Bgys. Luciano, Inocencio, Bagong Pook and Aguado in Trece Martirez City.

REASON: Preventive maintenance and testing work inside Meralco-TMC-I substation.

THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, MAY 12-13, 2005

BATANGAS (BATANGAS CITY)

BETWEEN 10:00PM AND 10:30PM (THU., 05/12/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 5:30AM AND 6:00AM (FRI., 05/13/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BOLBOK 323ZV

Portion of Batangas City Provincial Road from M. H. del Pilar St. to and including SM City-Batangas in Bgy. Pallocan West.

BETWEEN 10:00PM (THU., 05/12/05) AND 6:00AM (FRI., 05/13/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BOLBOK 323ZV

Portion of Batangas City Poblacion from Meralco-Bolbok substation to and including portion of M. H. del Pilar St., Rizal Ave., Evangelista St., Bgys. Pallocan West, Libjo, Dumuclay, Sto. Domingo, Cumba, Sirang Lupa, Conde Labac, Conde Itaas, Talumpok East and West, San Isidro, Malalim, Mahabang Dahilig, Sto. Niño, San Miguel, Tabangao Dao, Tabangao Ambulong, Tabangan Aplaya, Pinamucan Proper, Pinamucan Ibaba, Pinamucan Itaas, Simlong, Mabacong and Pagkilatan.

REASON: Various maintenance work along Rizal Ave., Evangelista and M. H. del Pilar Sts. in Batangas City Poblacion, Batangas City, Batangas.

CALOOCAN CITY (NORTH), QUEZON CITY AND VALENZUELA CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (THU., 05/12/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00AM AND 4:30AM (FRI., 05/13/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS KAYBIGA 44YX, 45YX AND 425YX

Portion of Gen. Luis Ave. from Kaypack to near Banco De Oro including P. Dela Cruz St. in Bgy. Kaybiga, Caloocan City (North).

Along P. Dela Cruz St. from Gen. Luis Ave. to Talalon St. including Kopa Metal Industry, Topspin Textile Mills, Villa Angelica Subd., Frisco Foundry, Harman Food, Zesto Corp., Ever Emporium Warehouse, Uni-pal Inds., Standard Aluminum Corp., Genknit Mfg., Prime Gold Mfg., Aspen Paper Products, Rogeo Metalfab Inds., Wonder Steel, Grand Asia Metal, Five Star Industrial Cpd. in Sitio Gitna, Bgy. Nagkaisang Nayon, Quezon City; Cygnus Industries, Kudos Metal, Crayons Processing Inc., Intl. Stainless Products, Lucky Plastic, Nippon Promac, Insulite Mfg., Monaco Mfg., Uniworld Processing Center, Kwang Yang Mfg., Elephant Ind. Corp., MGM Industrial Compound in Bgy. Kaybiga, Caloocan City (North); and Kopez Mfg. in Bgy. Ugong, Valenzuela City.

Portion of Gen. Luis Ave. from A. Samonte St. to and including Oriental Tin Can, MKR Corp., Chua Tee & Co., Nutritive Snack Food Corp., Rebisco Cpd. and July Mfg. in Bgys. Nagkaisang Nayon and Capri, Quezon City.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (THU., 05/12/05) AND 4:30AM (FRI., 05/13/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUITS KAYBIGA 44YX, 45YX AND 425YX

Portion of Gen. Luis Ave. from Banco De Oro to and including A. Samonte St., Torres I Village Packaging Haus, Reliance Agri Devt. Corp., Gullmar Marble and Plaswealth Mfg. in Bgys. Kaybiga, Caloocan City (North) and Nagkaisang Nayon, Quezon City.

REASON: Relocation of facilities affected by the upgrading of Bagbaguin – Kaybiga 115 kV transmission lines.

SATURDAY TO SUNDAY, MAY 14-15, 2005

VALENZUELA CITY

BETWEEN 11:30PM (SAT., 05/14/05) AND 4:30AM (SUN., 05/15/05) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALABON 415YD

Portion of T. Concepcion St. from near Liwayway St. to and including Continental Automotive Parts Mfg., Nation Automotive Mfg., Engracia, Jacinto, Limin, Encarnacion and Esguerra Sts. in Bgy. Marulas.

REASON: Relocation of facilities along T. Concepcion St. in Bgy. Marulas, Valenzuela City.

BULACAN (MARILAO AND MEYCAUAYAN)

BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 12:00MN (SAT., 05/14/05) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00AM AND 4:30AM (SUN., 05/15/05) – THE WHOLE OF CIRCUIT MARILAO 13YG AND PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT BOCAUE 47YE

Portion of McArthur Highway from Ceferino Santiago St. to Lias Road including Roxville Subd., St. Michael Family Hospital and Zesto Corp. in Marilao.

Along T. Sandico St. from Dela Rosa St. to near T. S. Bernardo St. including Maria Ramos Village, Villanca Subd., Constantino Park Subd., Constantina Ave., Sampaloc, Lanzones and Roxas Sts. in Bgy. Poblacion, Marilao.

Portion of McArthur Highway from near Calvario St. to near Marilao-Meycauayan boundary including Violeta Homes Subd., Villa Monteverde, Luzon Packaging, Luzon Bag Corp., St. Mary's College of Meycauayan, GGM Systems Phils., T. S. Bernardo, Saluysoy, Sulok, Regino Sts., Bgys. Saluysoy and Nagbalon in Meycauayan.

BETWEEN 11:30PM (SAT., 05/14/05) AND 4:30AM (SUN., 05/15/05) PORTION OF CIRCUIT BOCAUE 47YE

Portion of McArthur Highway from near Medallion Homes to near Lias Road in Marilao including St. Martin Subd. and Nazarenus College & Hospital in Meycauayan.

REASON: Relocation of facilities along McArthur Highway in Meycauayan, Bulacan affected by DPWH road-widening project.

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2005

BULACAN (BOCAUE)

BETWEEN 12:00NN AND 5:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. MARIA 424YU

The whole of Intercity Industrial Estate in Bo. Wakas.

REASON: Cleaning, replacement and washing of contaminated line devices at Intercity Industrial Estate in Bo. Wakas, Bocaue, Bulacan.

MERALCO exerts all efforts to restore electric service as scheduled. However, there are instances when due to unavoidable circumstances, restoration may extend beyond the published schedule. For more information, please contact our CALL CENTER at telephone number 16211, fax nos. 1622-8554, or e-mail address callcenter.tech.assist@meralco.com.ph. For faster resolution of inquiries, please use the *Bill ID Number* or *Service Identification Number (SIN)* indicated in your electric bills. For those who prefer to receive this schedule via e-mail, please write us at callcenter.tech.assist@meralco.com.ph and type in the phrase "Request for weekly schedule".

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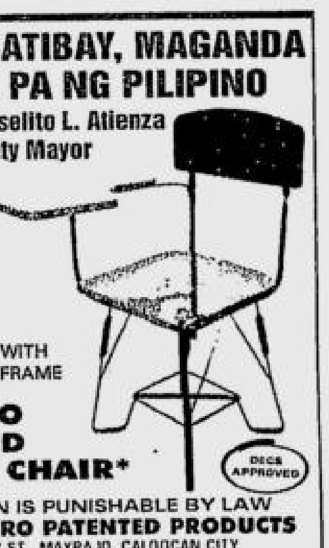

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40 Taliban dead in bloody Afghan fighting

KABUL—Forty suspected Taliban rebels were killed in a battle with US and Afghan troops, the US military said Thursday, doubling the toll from the bloodiest firefights since the regime launched a spring offensive.

Initial reports said only 20 militants died in the clash on Tuesday in southeastern Zabul province, along with an Afghan police officer, while six US servicemen and five Afghan police were injured, the US military said.

"Today, further reports indicate that the toll is going up to 40 for rebels," said Lt. Cindy Moore, a US coalition spokesperson.

The clash in the troubled district of Deh Chopan was sparked when militants kidnapped three local doctors and police tried to free them, Afghan interior minister Ali Ahmed Jalali said.

"Finally the three doctors were freed safely," he added.

US warplanes and gunship helicopters were also called in to help the troops on the ground, the US military said.

The renewed Taliban military drive has left at least 100 insurgents and 12 police dead as the weather has become warmer in past one month, Jalali said.

One Afghan policeman was killed in another clash between militants and Afghan and coalition forces on Wednesday in the southern province of Zabul on Wednesday, interior ministry spokesperson Lutfullah Mashal said. *AFP*

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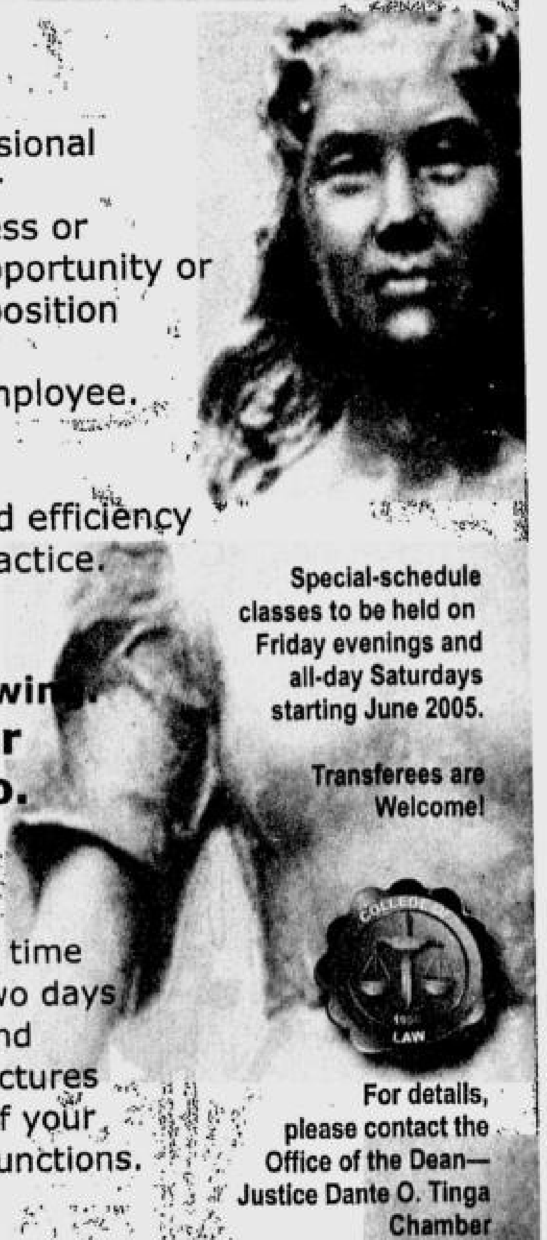

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Mistrial declared in abuse court-martial

ENGLAND

FORT HOOD, Texas—A judge declared a mistrial Wednesday in the court-martial of Lynndie England, the US soldier who became the face of the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal, after he rejected her guilty plea.

The judge, Col. James Pohl, told England he was obliged to throw out her plea after Charles Graner, the alleged ringleader in the abuse, testified that he had ordered England to hold a leash that was tied around the neck of a naked Iraqi prisoner.

That was just one of many statements made during a sentencing hearing which contradicted a sworn statement England made as part of her plea bargain.

"I know this is hard on you, but this trial is going to stop today," Pohl said.

The case has been returned to the US military authorities.

Publication of photos of England leading the prisoner on a leash and grinning as she posed with a pile of naked prisoners led to widespread condemnation of US practices in Iraq at a time when US forces were trying to bring the country under control after the 2003 invasion.

Pohl appeared to have doubted the 22-year-old reservist's declaration of guilt from the first day of trial.

He repeatedly warned her against being swayed by "outside interests" and told her that she should not plead guilty if she did not believe her actions were wrong at the time.

While there has never been any doubt over whether England was present during the abuse—the photos were shown around the world—the critical question was whether she conspired to maltreat the Iraqis.

For the conspiracy charge to stick, both England and Graner had to have believed at the time that their actions were wrong.

In her initial statement to Pohl, England said she thought it was okay to hold a prisoner by a leash because she was told to do it by Garner, a military police officer and former prison guard. England did not work in the prison and was there simply to visit friends.

It was only after Pohl asked her to reconsider her guilty plea and gave her time to consult her lawyers that England said she had always known her actions were wrong.

When Graner declared that he tied the leash around the prisoner because it was "the safest way to get the prisoner out of there," Pohl halted the hearing.

In explaining his decision to declare a mistrial, Pohl said: "You can't have a one person conspiracy."

Graner, who is reported to have married another soldier charged in the scandal, Megan Ambuhl, was dating England at the time of the abuse and is the father of her seven-month-old son.

Of the eight soldiers charged over the Abu Ghraib scandal, only Graner's case has gone to trial. He is currently serving a 10-year term. *AFP*

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6th	Feb. 19, 2005	MASBATE
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DRINK MODERATELY

50 YEARS OF DISNEYLAND
Visitors watch as fireworks rise over the Sleeping Be
4, during the premiere of "Remember... Dreams Con
presented for Disney's 50th anniversary.

Prosecution rests
trial; defense read

SANTA MARIA, California—Michael Jackson's lawyers were set to argue Thursday the pop star should be acquitted, but also readied to bring in an all-star cast of witnesses now that the prosecution has rested its case.

Among the first scheduled to take the stand as a defense witness is former child star Macaulay Culkin, of "Home Alone" fame, who is widely expected to deny claims that Jackson ever fondled him.

But first, Jackson's lawyers will try to convince Judge Rodney Melville the "King of Pop" should walk free right now.

On Thursday morning they are set to argue that their client should be acquitted of all 10 charges against him.

The motion for acquittal they filed Wednesday claims that the "inherently improbable" testimony by the alleged victim and his younger brother "did not establish substantial evidence" that Jackson fondled the then 13-year-old boy and served him alcohol two years ago.

But the lawyers focused mainly on getting the entertainer acquitted of a charge that he conspired to hold the boy and his family against their will.

Prosecutors claim Jackson and his aides wanted to hold them captive until they agreed to clear the singer's name following broadcast of a damaging documentary that showed the entertainer and his future accuser holding hands.

In its motion, the defense argued that Tom Sneddon, the district attorney of California's Santa Barbara county who leads the prosecution, had not

Cover-up in ex-foot

WASHINGTON—The US Army determined days after Army Ranger Pat Tillman's 2004 death in Afghanistan that the former professional football player had been killed by friendly fire, but kept it secret for weeks and even destroyed evidence, Army officials said on Wednesday.

A 1,600-page report by Brig. Gen. Gary Jones of the Army Special Operations Command found that the Army did not tell his family or the public that Tillman had been killed mistakenly by fellow Rangers until weeks after his nationally televised memorial service, officials said.

At the time, the Army's public account of Tillman's death on April 22, 2004, in a remote canyon near the Pakistani border indicated he had been slain by enemy fire during an ambush.

Tillman walked away from his lucrative National Football League career to join the military along with his brother in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. He was widely hailed as a hero and role model.

Jones' findings, first reported by The Washington Post and confirmed by Army officials, stated American soldiers at the scene and local US commanders knew from the start it was friendly fire.

An initial Army investigation determined within days that Tillman was shot by US soldiers, and an investigator accused those who fired on him of "gross negligence," Jones found.

The day after his death, US personnel burned Tillman's bloody body armor and uniform, which Jones called the destruction of evidence. Army officers also instructed soldiers knowledgeable about the incident to keep quiet for fear the news media would learn the truth, the report found.

"Leading his Rangers without regard for his own safety, Tillman was shot and killed while focusing his efforts on the elimination of the enemy forces and the protection of his team members," Army Special Operations Command said in a public statement on April 30, 2004, several days after Army investigators had established friendly fire as the cause. *Reuters*

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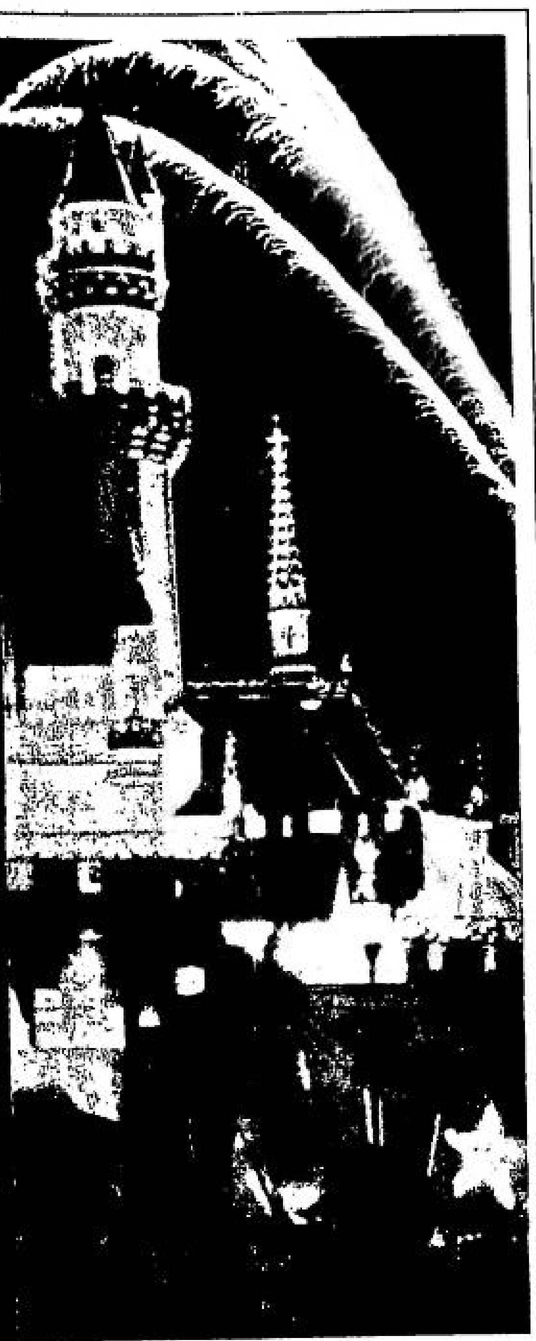

auty Castle at Disneyland in Anaheim, CA May
ne True," the new fireworks-and-light show
AFP

India launches two satellites

SRIHARIKOTA, India—An Indian rocket blasted off Thursday, carrying the country's ambitions to be a major global space power and two satellites that it launched into orbit.

The liftoff in southeastern India marked the first time India had launched a rocket with two satellites aboard and notched up another achievement in its ambitious space program to send a probe to the moon by 2007 or 2008.

The launch "reaffirms the emergence of India as a major space power," Prime Minister Manmohan Singh told parliament in New Delhi.

The 44-meter Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle carried a remote sensing satellite whose detailed imaging is aimed at putting every Indian household on the map and another for South Asian home radio operators that can be used during disasters such as earthquakes and floods. *AFP*

case in Jackson
ies all-star cast

een able to support his claims.

"The district attorney has failed to present sufficient evidence of a conspiracy," it said.

"There have been no witnesses who established Ir. Jackson's personal role in any alleged conspiray," it stated.

Legal experts said the conspiracy count was learly the weakest part of the prosecution case.

"It may very well be that the judge will grant an cquittal on the conspiracy," said Craig Smith, a forner prosecutor who has been following the case.

Melville was also to rule on the latest of several notions for mistrial and another defense motion to ismiss the charges.

He was also due to decide whether to accept a umber of documents the prosecution wants to file s evidence.

The judge has made it clear the defense should be eady to bring in its first witness as soon as those isues are resolved—and subject to his ruling on the notions.

In addition to Culkin, two Australians could appear for the defense in the coming days. All three re expected to deny claims by earlier witnesses hat Jackson fondled them when they visited his leverland Ranch more than a decade ago.

The defense list of possible witnesses includes lozens of the best-known names in the entertainnent world, including screen diva Elizabeth Taylor, nusic mogul Quincy Jones, singer Diana Ross and basketball star Kobe Bryant. *AFP*

tball star's death

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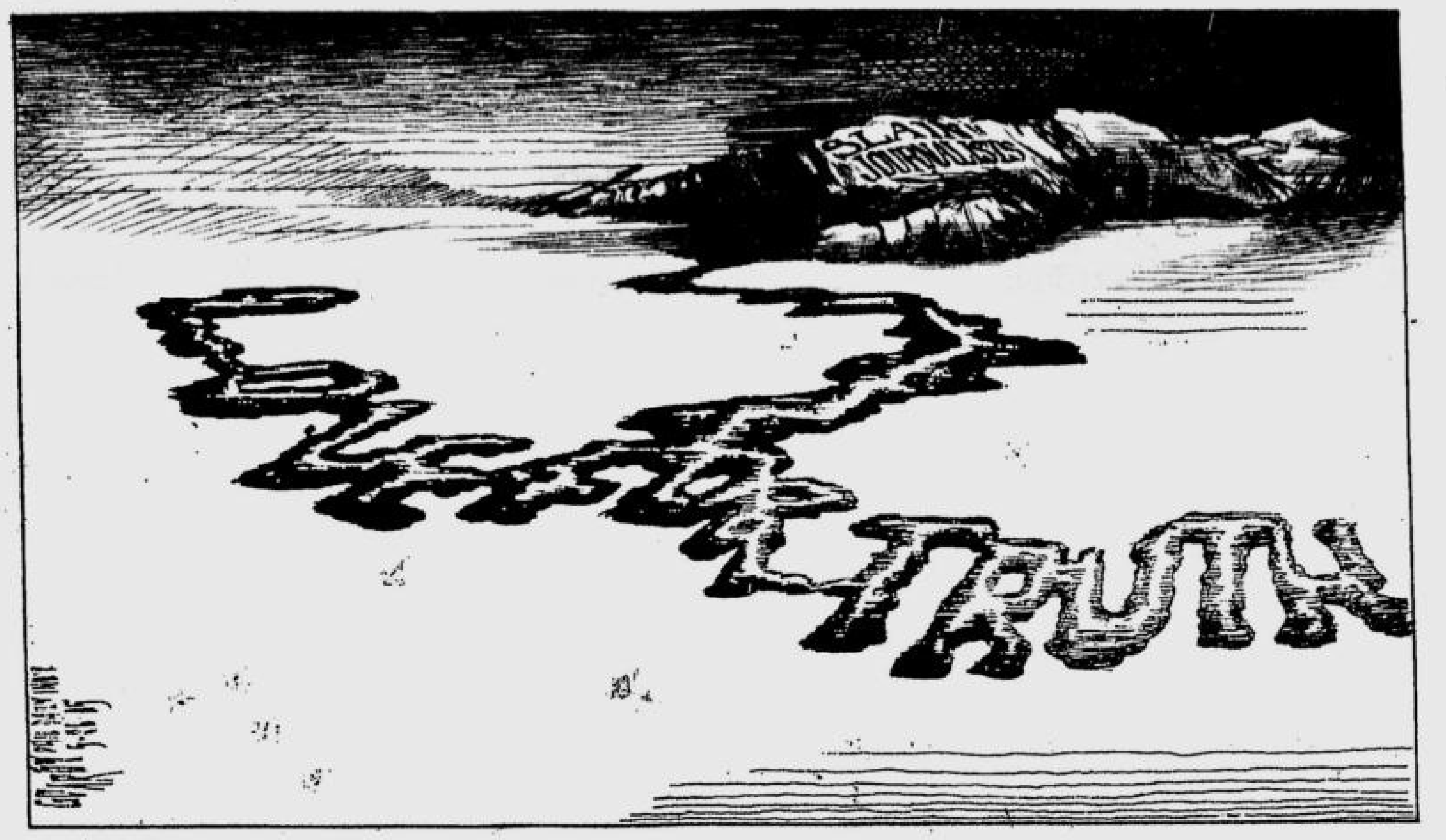


SOS

Editorial

I WISH I could simply wave a magic wand and lower gas prices tomorrow; I'd do that," US President George W. Bush was quoted as saying recently.

That is, of course, every leader's wish, except maybe for those whose countries are major oil producers. But if the leader of the world's only remaining superpower can just wring his hand in helplessness and frustration as oil prices skyrocket in the face of heightened demand from the fast-growing giant economies of China and India, what can the president of a small, impoverished nation, whose government is drowning in debt, possibly do?

Bring oil prices down, that's what, according to three Catholic bishops and their colleagues in the multisectoral group, Kilusang Makabansang Ekonomiya. And not only that, the government should also cut water and power rates and stop imposing new taxes at the same time.

Unless the administration acts on these demands, people will "clamor for change and we cannot stop them," Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez said. "We might even ask for such changes for the good of the country." Bishop Julio X. Labayen warned that "no force on earth can ever stop the coming deluge of change as the pent-up emotions of our poor suffering people [are] about to explode." Should President Macapagal-Arroyo ignore their demands, they plan to declare a "national day of mourning and protest" on June 12 and call for an "immediate change in system."

Now, wouldn't it be grand if Ms Arroyo could just wave a magic wand and bring oil prices down? She would need one with stronger magic powers since the three bishops and their allies also want to cut water and electric rates. And while she is at it, why not slash as well the prices of food products and other essential commodities, cut transport costs and raise the wages of workers and the salaries of employees? Then we may no longer need bishops since we would have heaven right here on earth.

The problem is there is no magic wand. The other problem is that the three bishops and their group apparently have not thought out their position thoroughly. If pump prices are going to be lowered, for instance, then the government will have to cover the difference while world oil prices remain way up there. So where is it going to get the money for the subsidy? The government is deep in debt and has a perennial budget deficit. Raise taxes? That is anathema to the KME. Borrow? Who is going to lend money when a key proposal of the group is debt repudiation? Of course, a debt repayment moratorium will free hundreds of billions of pesos, but a default declaration by the country's international creditors will be nothing short of disastrous for the economy.

Maybe a change in system or leadership would bring about much needed economic relief to our suffering poor? But exactly what new system are the bishops and their friends talking about? And who do they propose to lead us to the promised land? Is it Vice President Noli de Castro, since he is Ms Arroyo's constitutional successor? Is it one of the bishops?

Former Defense Secretary Fortunato Abat and his group, who preceded the bishops in calling for regime change, at least are clear on who will run their proposed transition government. If the disgraced former president is to be believed, they want Joseph Estrada to head the junta, which can be presumed to have a good number of retired generals as members.

On the other hand, all the KME leaders would say at this point is that once they drive Ms Arroyo out of power, they would not serve in government but merely serve as "watchdogs." And they think the new rulers will welcome having other people looking over their shoulders? How naive can some people get? Somebody should save them from their delusions.

Who will save us from our saviors?

New pope's challenge

Foreign Comment

THE SELECTION of Joseph Ratzinger as the new pope has been met with both joy and resignation.

Benedict XVI wants reconciliation with all churches, and dialogue with all religions, right and needed bridge-building in a globalized world. If we are to judge by his past, he will also carry on the late pope's conservative view of women and homosexuality, his hardheaded opposition to contraception and abortion, as well as his determined defense of celibacy.

Questions like these put the church at odds with widespread beliefs in the West and have caused a shortage of priests in many places. The big challenge will be to make the connection to broad, secular currents in a way that make the church's insistence on its own values and beliefs more relevant for more people than today.

Aftenposten (Oslo, Norway

Public transports already overcharging passengers

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

SOMETIMES—but only sometimes—the people win, too. And that is in the statement the other day by the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board that there will be no fare increases yet. For the drivers of public transportation have gotten used to the notion that, like Lola, whatever they want they get.

They already have a formula to get it down pat. First, they demand that the prices of diesel and gas be rolled back. Of course, it will not be rolled back. So they ask for fare hikes. Then they hold transport strikes to strike fear in the hearts of the LTFRB and the commuters. After the strike, they go in force to the LTFRB hearings and argue for increases in fares, and they expect the LTFRB, now chastened, to immediately grant an increase.

Not this time, however. They will still study the documents submitted to them by both sides, the petitioners and the opposers, said LTFRB Chair Ma. Elenita Bautista.

Documents are sometimes misleading. But the LTFRB only has to use the power of observation to come to the conclusion that another fare increase is not, repeat not, justified.

Look at the buses on Edsa. They're bumper-to-bumper on the whole stretch of Edsa, with only a few passengers each. Gone were the days when buses were bursting with passengers, especially during rush hours.

Look at the jeepneys at their terminals. They stay there longer than the time they spend making *pasada*. The drivers actually spend more time sleeping in their jeepneys or eating snacks at the nearby *tiendas* than driving.

With the dearth of passengers for buses and too few trips for jeepneys, one would think that they would have gone out of business already. In fact, that was what our so-called traffic experts thought before—that having the elevated rail lines for competition, buses and jeepneys would be forced to phase themselves out. No such thing happened. On the contrary, the number of jeepneys is still as thick as ever on Rizal and Taft avenues. And there are even more buses plying Edsa now.

LTFRB's Bautista said that even franchised provincial buses are operating as *colorums* on Edsa. Buses are in demand in the provinces where there is a shortage of them, so why would the operators and drivers of franchised provincial buses choose to operate on congested Edsa where there is a dearth of passengers?

What we can conclude from this is that the Edsa route, despite too many buses and too few passengers, is still a very profitable route. Were it not, the bus companies would have gone bankrupt a long time ago or shifted to other routes. The LTFRB is ready to grant them franchises to other less-congested routes. The only explanation they're still on Edsa is that they still make money on this route.

And the fact that they still make a profit despite the lack of passengers can only mean that they are overcharging their passengers.

The same is true with the jeepneys. With the fewer trips and passengers, one would think the drivers would not be able to pay the boundary and still take home enough for his family. Why would anybody spend day in and day out driving a jeepney if he could not earn a decent living? How could he make enough with the dearth of trips and passengers?

Like the buses, they must be overcharging their passengers.

Indeed, considering how often and how generous the fare increases in the past were, it is not surprising that commuters are being taken for a ride—literally and figuratively.

If there were less buses and jeepneys in Metro Manila, those that would be left would earn more and faster because there would be more passengers per unit. And traffic would move faster because there would be less of them crawling on the streets to compete for the few passengers.

Transportation officials just have to look out of their office windows and see those buses and jeepneys crawling bumper-to-bumper on the crowded streets—each with few passengers—to realize that there are just too many of them. It is elementary that to ease traffic congestion, we should reduce the number of vehicles—since we are not adding streets anyway.

Every year, we add thousands of new vehicles, churned out by the foreign-owned car and motorcycle companies, but too few of them are phased out. In the Philippines, once a vehicle gets out of the factory, it runs forever. Look at the jeepneys. They are a byproduct of World War II, but they're still running until now, thanks to the ingenuity of Filipino artisans.

There are already too many franchises granted to buses, jeepneys and tricycles in Metro Manila. The previous LTFRB granted franchises as fast as the fixers brought them in.

The present LTFRB chief agrees that some of them have to be phased out. She also admits that plenty of colorums are added to the franchised units and these cannot be ferreted out.

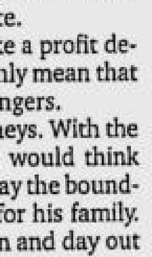
Well, in the first place, many of the buses are already old and their franchises stipulate that each unit should not be older than a certain number of years. Many of them are already overaged, and their franchises should be cancelled. The franchises also say that they must serve the public faithfully and that joining strikes and boycotts would be a cause for cancellation.

Jeepneys are even older, and their drivers join strikes too often. So why doesn't the LTFRB cancel their franchises?

Ms Bautista said they have to follow due process. So follow it and make it quick. And what about the colorum vehicles? It's quite easy to catch them—if there is a will. But is there?

'No man, no problem'

Passion for Reason



Raul C. Pangalangan

JOSEPH Stalin said: "Ideas are more powerful than guns. We would not let our enemies have guns, why should we let them have ideas?" Elsewhere, he concluded with the now famous quotation: "Death solves all problems—no man, no problem."

(Recently, that remark was made famous all over again by an American conservative, addressing fellow critics of the United States Supreme Court. The Court had issued a decision forbidding capital punishment for juveniles, and Justice Anthony Kennedy did the unforgivable: He cited an international human rights treaty to support his decision. In a forum entitled Remedies to Judicial Tyranny, lawyer-author Edwin Vieira told a Washington, D.C. gathering that Justice Kennedy should be impeached for upholding "satanic principles drawn from foreign law," and proceeded to quote—for authority—Joseph Stalin!)

How appalling that the Philippines now outranks Iraq as the world's "most murderous country" for journalists. We are a free and open democracy, and our Constitution guarantees freedom of the press, while Iraq is in a state of siege and is under foreign military occupation. Following Iraq in that hall of shame are Colombia, Bangladesh and Russia—which means that a journalist is safer speaking the truth about the drug cartel or the new Mafia, than he is talking about *jueteng* and local scams. The numbers are worrisome: 66 Filipino journalists slain since the 1986 restoration of democracy; 23 in the last three years; four killed from January to March 2005 alone, while three survived assassination attempts.

Ilocos Sur radio commentator Nestor Seguismundo is the third media man in five weeks to be attacked by hired guns, but he was blessed enough to survive. Police have already identified three possible reasons for the slay attempt: one, Seguismundo's criticism of the local jueteng lords; two, his political affiliation with the opposition; and three, his exposé of the alleged purchase by government of overpriced real estate.

Various groups have criticized the Philippine government and its police for allowing the carnage to go unchallenged and unpunished, as the slaying of Mindanao journalists Marlene Esperat, Edgar Damalerio and Edgar Amoro remains unsolved.

What has emboldened their killers? What has turned journalists into fair game for hired guns? The answer lies in our unique overlay of democracy over Godfather-type politics, a kind of Thomas Jefferson-meets-Vito Corleone.

First and foremost, defenders of a free press correctly blame the "culture of impunity," where criminals go scot-free, where, at worst, the killers are coddled by patrons in the police hierarchy, and where, at best, only the small-fry are punished but rarely the true masterminds. For our police, it is a problem of professional competence; for our government, a problem of political will. The new PNP director general has now sacked the Ilocos Sur provincial chief "to pave the way for an impartial investigation," as he earlier did with the police chief of General Santos City where investigative journalist Esperat was killed. These dramatic measures have certainly taken some time, but they are a clear break from the seeming apathy of the past.

More than that, however, what makes local journalists and whistleblowers even more vulnerable is large-scale institutional failure. Today, no scandal, no scam, no racket will be investigated by the police, local governments, or prosecutors unless they are bombarded by unrelenting media attention. Whereas the formal rules have all so carefully allocated the investigative and prosecutorial powers, whereas our laws grandly speak of the duty to punish and prosecute, the reality is that the power to execute laws requires the will to exercise that power.

And for that our nation has turned to the Fourth Estate. We expect our journalists to provide the will power to begin the investigations and to stay the course. More media personnel are targeted by killers-for-hire because the mass media are effectively the motor and engine of the entire law-and-order system.

With constant media pressure, the law enforcers and prosecutors can shrug their shoulders and tell the killers' bosses: Sorry, buddy, I have no choice. These troublemaking writers are breathing down my neck. *Trabaho lang ito.* (And the bosses of course would understand, for as Don Vito himself would say, "It's just business, it's not personal.") Yet, distract media attention one bit, and government authorities suddenly feel free to go back to business-as-usual, saunter through bureaucratic minutiae, and effectively throw the case to the archives.

Edsa I restored democracy but not republican institutions, and we still rely on popular pressure to make these institutions work. The deaths of the crusading men and women of the press demonstrate this one true peril of politicizing law-and-order.

The recent killings also indicate another trend. Almost all of the latest victims were local media practitioners. Democracy returns power to the people, and it gets closest to the people in local communities and their local papers and radio stations. Devolved democracy relies even more on local journalists to expose the grassroots scams and abuses, as all three police theories of the Seguismundo shooting demonstrate—and it is at this level where these journalists are most exposed and defenseless. This should give pause to advocates of devolving more and more power to smaller and smaller units of governance, because therein lie the most persistent of feudal power, where power is at its most personal and most raw. There we face the lingering Mafioso in all of us.

* * *

Comments to raulcp@info.com.ph

A recipe of proven failures

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE MANIFESTO unveiled by retired Gen. Fortunato Abat at Club Filipino last Saturday, calling for the formation of a "revolutionary salvation" government, outlines the blueprint of a fascist military dictatorship more draconian than Ferdinand Marcos' authoritarianism.

The blueprint avoids the word "authoritarian"—already a bad word in Asia which has experienced a series of authoritarian regimes since the 1970s. In its stead, the blueprint uses the phrase "a proposal for authoritative governance." The closest working model of the Abat proposal is the SLORC (State Law and Order Restoration Council), the name of the "national salvation" regime that has ruled Burma for more than a decade.

The manifesto is resonant with key words that characterize junta regimes—such as "national discipline," "radical and wide-ranging reforms to stabilize and strengthen the nation's security," and launching a "program of national salvation"—all hallmarks of the national security state of the '70s and the '80s. As such, the blueprint is a throwback to the dark ages of authoritarianism of those decades.

It bristles with the messianic zeal of the self-appointed saviors of the nation. It seeks to install "the foundations of a Strong Republic, lead in the search for a strong, decisive, disciplined and visionary leadership that will draw the line of departure from where to move forward for renewal and reforms, improve the quality of life of our people, and unify them in the march toward a progressive and prosperous national life." The manifesto's most glaring shortcoming is that it lacks a social program that seeks to redistribute wealth from the rich to the poor. It does not give us a profile of the kind of leaders who will run the country during the transition. It falls short in describing the method of deposing the existing government, except with vague reference to "people power."

The manifesto repeats the theme of eradicating graft and corruption as the root of the national malaise. There is nothing new in this theme—the battle cry of traditional parties during regular elections.

A closer examination of the "tasks of transition government" gives clues of its specific priorities. The "tasks" is a pastiche of ambiguous and contradictory concepts. Its main elements include: abolition of the present Constitution; adoption of a revolutionary constitution in the interim while a new constitution is being written to establish the legal basis for reform and of a new system; abolition of Congress; suspension of elections until the infrastructure of a new system has been established; abolition of parliamentary and presidential immunities; abolition of the pork barrel;

Moratorium on strikes; adoption of a national ID system; development of national discipline through fair and fast enforcement; speedy disposition of cases in the courts, giving priority to those that involve graft and corruption, tax evasion, smuggling, drug trafficking and economic sabotage; maximization of the role of the military in nation-building; installation of a federal system; rotation of the presidency among seven regional groupings—Northern Luzon, Southern Luzon, the Visayas, Mindanao, ARMM, NCR, and the Cordilleras—with a fixed term of three years for each. It is silent on how the president is to be selected.

Most of the above elements were installed by Marcos after he declared martial law in 1972. So, there is nothing new in the proposed revolutionary system.

Upon declaring martial law, Marcos closed Congress and dismantled the political parties, and suspended elections for several years, proceeding to adopt in 1973 an authoritarian constitution which was ratified by a rigged referendum.

The manifesto is superfluous when it seeks the abolition of the pork barrel. When there is no Congress and elections are suspended, the pork barrel becomes redundant. With no more congressmen to act as middle men in the distribution of patronage, the pork is consolidated in the hands of the president.

Under the manifesto, the president is given oversight power to "effect authoritative governance." "He is not a figurehead or just a ceremonial person. He is to be assisted by a Council of State composed of one counselor from each autonomous region." According to this blueprint, the council operates as a corporate body, with the president as chair and the prime minister as the chief executive officer. The council "constitutes the authoritative leadership that sees to the unity of government of the nation and harmony of government action. It holds office and sits in council to advise and assist the president by, among others, initiating public policy as basis for legislative action and reviewing legislation, and seeing to the proper governance of the nation."

Most of the above features hark back to the Marcos system which proved to be a failure in establishing a corruption-free and efficient regime. So the manifesto is offering a recipe of failure and a system that is even more restrictive and less consensus-driven than the Marcos dictatorship. It hardly recognizes political rights as a component of the revolutionary regime.

The key concept that is very revealing of its philosophy is that it misinterprets the message of the Edsa uprisings. Edsa "contemplated reform of our political institutions and renewal of the values of our people through the inculcation of discipline on both the governing and the governed."

Note this dangerous notion that runs through the manifesto, "People, especially the poor, will care less for freedom and democracy unless their basic needs for food, clothing and shelter are satisfied." In short, it advocates a trade-off between political rights and basic needs.

New and old ways of loving

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF social conservatives hope to demonize the gay community, I wish them luck. Not with TV shows like "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" and its derivatives making friends and influencing people. How dangerous, after all, could gays be, when week after week they're shown transforming a hopelessly fashion-challenged, unhygienic, socially awkward, and romantically handicapped straight guy into a half-way respectable cool dude?

There's nothing like watching "Queer Eye" for the first time, and experiencing the blast of humor, self-awareness, empathy and style that both defies and confirms all the stereotypes about gay men. It is true, after all, that gay men have better taste, more style and sharper social smarts than straights—men or women. But the show also proves that they aren't all sexual predators (even if Carson Kresley does push the envelope at times), and could often be outright protective and maternal toward the hapless subjects of their ministrations. It's difficult to believe, for instance that homosexuality presents a threat to the "stability of the family," when these five gay men bust their backs getting straight men to look better, smell sweeter and behave more lovingly toward their wives or girlfriends. More than once, an episode of "Queer Eye" has ended with a marriage proposal, with the five fairy godfathers toasting the loving couples with tears in their eyes.

And it's not just the Fab Five. Elsewhere in reality TV land, gays are showing up straights in the humanity department.

* * *

IN THE CURRENT season of "The Amazing Race," which draws to a close next week, the gay couple, Alex and Lynn, may have been eliminated, but they've already shown they've got bigger hearts than any of the couples currently leading the race. When brothers Brian and Greg Smith met an accident along a dirt road in Africa, in which their cameraman was seriously injured, only Alex and Lynn stopped and went down their vehicle, even if it jeopardized their chances of making it first to the Pit Stop.

All the other couples managed to drive away from the accident scene, though some slowed down and muttered a few concerned words. But Rob and Amber, who are the current leaders of the race, not only failed to stop, they even laughed at the brothers' predicament, justifying their lack of concern by declaring that they were in a race and had to make the most of every advantage handed them. I wonder if they're at all concerned that the million dollars they stand to win would be splotched with the blood of the other racers.

Alex and Lynn, like other gay couples who had taken part in previous races, proved to be the most amiable and agreeable with each other. While other couples, even the long-married ones, endlessly bickered and harangued each other, the two men were nothing but sweet to each other and constantly encouraged each other even in the most trying of circumstances.

Again, if gay men (and women) are showing themselves to be capable of establishing long-term committed relationships and behaving toward each other—and others—in a loving, humane manner, how could they possibly pose a danger to family and society?

* * *

AIRED recently on HBO was the TV-movie "Normal," one of the most moving and touching viewing experiences I've had.

"Normal" tells the story of Irma (Jessica Lange) and Roy (Tom Wilkinson), celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary among their family and friends in a small rural town, where they are held in high esteem and are considered "pillars" of the community.

That is, until Roy voices, in the course of a counseling session with their pastor, a long-held secret he feels he can no longer live with unless he acts on it. All his life, he tells the shocked pastor and a livid Irma, he had felt himself trapped in his body, and now he wants to become the woman he feels he really is, to "complete" himself, as he tells Irma.

"Normal" details not just the storms that Roy and Irma must deal with, but also the way their family, especially their children, as well as their neighbors, co-workers and friends reconcile themselves with the "new" Roy.

The process is heartbreaking. Roy, now dressing as a woman and taking on matronly features (including small breasts) while he takes hormones, is ostracized at work and in church. But at home, after weathering the expected crisis in their relationship, Roy and Irma discover, as the TV blurb says, that "love transcends even gender."

* * *

AN INTERESTING counterpoint to the story of Roy and Irma is that of their daughter who is herself undergoing a re-birth of sorts as she approaches puberty. Together, father and daughter explore their changing selves, and it is amusing how they both, with Irma's guidance, seek to grow into womanhood.

"Normal" was nominated for an Emmy for best TV movie and both Lange and Wilkinson were nominated for acting plums in last year's awards. Unfortunately, none of the nominations panned out, but this does not detract in the least from the merits of the feature, which explores its sensitive subject with sympathy and even humor.

One scene moved me to tears. The pastor visits with Irma and tells her how he and the rest of the congregation are concerned about her and the children. "As your pastor and friend, I give you permission to end your marriage right now and leave Roy," he tells Irma. "Leave Roy?" she asks incredulously. "But he is my heart!"

In the end, it is "society," with all its rules and conventions, that cannot abide the unusual and "strange" marriage of Irma and Roy. And it is they and their children who negotiate their way through the twists and turns of life, and build from its complications both a new and old way of loving.

'Nationalist' history

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

I TOOK up history as a profession because of Teodoro A. Agoncillo, whose textbooks I had read even before we met. I was surprised to meet him in 1983 because I thought he was long dead. An engaging and very opinionated man, his passion swayed anyone who read or listened to him. His sharp book reviews are worth re-reading—especially where the victim was crazy enough to respond. There must be something in historians that makes them sensitive, or—as they say in Filipino—*balat sibuyas* (onion-skinned). Agoncillo is not alone in this respect.

We have a long tradition that goes all the way back to Jose Rizal and his published tiff with Isabelo de los Reyes.

De los Reyes or "Don Belong" (1864-1938) was a journalist, businessman, labor leader, politician and prominent member of the schismatic Iglesia Filipina Independiente that "canonized" Rizal. He was interested in aspects of Philippine history and culture, especially those which concerned his home region—the Ilocos. His fieldwork and compilations of folklore, history and customs have proven to be of great ethnographic value for present-day scholars. De los Reyes had been corresponding with European scholars with research interests in the Philippines long before Rizal came in contact with Blumentritt. De los Reyes published many books, pamphlets and articles including "El Folklore Filipino" in two volumes, which was awarded a silver medal in the Philippine Exposition in Madrid in 1887. He left a "Historia de Filipinas" unfinished, with only one volume completed. He also published "Las Islas Visayas en la epoca de conquista" (The Visayan islands at the time of the conquest); and numerous compilations of his journalistic writings—"Filipinas articulos varios sobre etnografia, historia y costumbres de los Filipinos" (The Philippines: various articles on the ethnography, history and customs of the Filipinos); and the two-volume "Historia de Ilocos." Some of De los Reyes' works were even translated by Blumentritt into German and published outside the Philippines.

In his "Historia de Ilocos," De los Reyes upset Rizal. De los Reyes called attention to a discrepancy between his own research and some of Rizal's annotations on Morga. These differences of opinion were explained, according to De los Reyes, by Rizal's excessive patriotism:

"But that very laudable patriotism of his, it seems to me, blinds him at times, and as an historian ought to be rigorously impartial...the optimism of the said author turns out to be passionate in some points, taking exceptions of the general rule and vice versa. The consensus among authors who had no reason to lie in these cases ought to be taken into account. The true character of that [pre-Hispanic] civilization and what is still preserved of it in the present customs of the people..."

Rizal was so irritated that he responded by attacking De los Reyes in the Oct. 31, 1890 issue of La Solidaridad, using the sarcasm he normally reserved for racist Spaniards and friars:

"I do not know how discreet it is to raise oneself as a judge of others...[when] neither one or the other was an eyewitness or more or less an influential actor. But this, which anyone else could be censured as vain presumption, ceases to be so in Mr. Isabelo de los Reyes who knows very well how to interpret the historians of the Philippines."

As De los Reyes was fond of using Philippine terms in his works, especially words from his mother tongue, Ilocano, Rizal took him to task for (mis)translating Morga's "*principales*" into its Ilocano equivalent, "*agturay*."

"I have read Morga about seven times and I do not remember that he had ever mentioned *agturay*. I do not know if Mr. de los Reyes in his laudable desire to Ilocanize the Philippines thinks it convenient to make Morga speak Ilocano. It is true that this author, in describing the customs of the Tagalogs, said that they were generally current in all the islands; but this does not mean that Ilocano customs are the ones that prevail."

Not content with this, Rizal flaunted his familiarity with the primary sources in Philippine history, finding fault with De los Reyes for using "unreliable" sources. Rizal even belittled De los Reyes' scholarship by claiming that the latter had used a mere French translation of a manuscript, while he had used the original. Rizal also claimed he read all the extant early accounts of the Philippines, cover to cover, except that of Plasencia, which was unavailable:

"I never state anything on my own authority. I cite texts and when I cite them, I have them before me...As I based my assertion on seven contemporary writers, I do not know if in this case I shall be the exception and De los Reyes the general rule. I know that the authority of De los Reyes is worth seven times more than mine; but with my seven authors, and he with his Fr. Rada, we can balance ourselves, if he does not take offense...dealing with historical facts, only the testimony of contemporaries can be authoritative, a testimony that ought to be subjected to the process of criticism."

Underneath this sour exchange, beneath the historiographical argument, lies not scholarship or the reliability of sources, but patriotism. It is high time we ask whether "nationalist" history clouds the eyes and the mind.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Rabies alert

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WE have one of the highest death rates in the world for rabies, a disease we fear. Rabies death stories are part of our folklore—I grew up with stories about Fernando Poe Jr.'s father dying of rabies. Despite these fears, the majority of our dogs are not vaccinated against rabies, posing a grave threat to public health.

The reason for this neglect is that while we fear rabies, we still don't understand the disease. Many still believe that rabies is not always fatal. Accompanying the stories about FPJ's father are endless tales of the so-called "survivors" and all kinds of folk remedies—from garlic to carabao horns. With the numbers of purported rabies survivors, you would think we had some kind of genetic immunity to the disease. Yet the medical journals have never picked up the stories of our so-called survivors; in fact, worldwide, there has only been one documented case of a rabies victim surviving, and that was with massive medical intervention in an American hospital.

We need to be more aware about rabies, especially with the summer break and kids roaming the streets, running higher risks of dog bites.

'OK lang'

The reason I'm doing this column is that a few weeks ago, I got to see the difference between Americans and Filipinos in their perceptions of rabies. These perceptions can spell the difference between life and death, between our high rabies death rates and the almost zero rate in the United States.

Let me describe the incident that got me to do this column. I had an American visitor, whom I will call Wendy. A rabid (pardon the adjective) animal lover, Wendy was always spotting dogs and cats and puppies and kittens and wanting to take them back to America.

During her visit, we dropped by an NGO office which, in Pinoy fashion, had a dog chained by the gate. Predictably, when Wendy entered the office, she immediately ooohed and aahhed, "What a cute dog" and extended her hand in friendship. In a split second, the dog lunged forward and sank his teeth into her hand.

I had Wendy wash her hands immediately with soap (no, garlic is not recommended). I then advised the NGO to observe the dog for the next 10 days and to keep us updated. Any change in the dog's behavior, I told them, should be reported immediately.

Wendy had to return to the States and the event was all too quickly forgotten, until about the 8th day after the bite, when Wendy e-mailed me, asking if I'd heard from the NGO, and to please make sure to find out what had happened to the dog. Her e-mail was frantic because her doctor in the States had told her she was good as d-e-a-d if the dog had rabies. I was embarrassed, too, having let the incident pass, and I rushed over to the NGO. You can imagine my relief, as I approached the gate, when I saw the dog still alive. When I asked one of the NGO staff if they had noticed anything, she shrugged her shoulder, "OK *lang*" and then added quickly, her voice almost tinged with approval, "Oh, the dog seems more fierce now."

Rabid dog, good dog

There lies part of the problem. We raise dogs to be fierce, even rabid. We cage them, chain them, turning the gentlest puppies into frustrated neurotics, ready to snap at anything, anyone. I suspect some dog owners even harbor perverse pleasure when their dog bites someone because they think that once the dog's tasted human blood, they become even better watchdogs. Eventually the dog becomes so vicious even owners can't control it, much less bring it to the vet for their rabies shots.

Then, too, we still don't understand what rabies is. We think that a dog gets rabies after biting someone. Given that most people do quite well after a dog bite, we then think that the victim has survived rabies—thanks to the garlic or other folk remedies. In reality, there was never rabies in the first place.

Let's get it clear then: a person gets rabies if bitten by a dog already infected with rabies. But a rabid dog may not necessarily show the rabies signs immediately—these include confusion, followed by the salivating and other "mad" behavior. Appropriately, in Tagalog we use "*nauulol*" (going insane) to refer to rabies.

If someone is bitten by a dog that is obviously rabid—often one that is stray and on a mad rampage—you should rush the victim immediately to the provincial hospital or in Manila to San Lazaro to get the person vaccinated.

If the dog has no signs of rabies, it should be kept under observation for the next 10 days; if the dog has already been infected, the signs usually emerge within this period and the person who was bitten should start getting rabies shots. Why not get the person vaccinated right away? Well, the shots—which are very expensive and carry some risks of side effects—would be for nothing if the dog wasn't infected in the first place.

You should also have the victim vaccinated if the dog disappears or dies. Don't bother trying to determine the cause of death; you can't take chances here.

I don't believe in fear tactics, but I will repeat that there is no cure for rabies, and it is almost always fatal. Not only that, dying from rabies is a slow and terrible process. Don't take chances—have your dogs vaccinated and do think again about the way you raise your dogs. Dogs will guard your home instinctively, barking whenever there are intruders. But if you chain and maltreat them, you could end up with killer dogs who just might turn against you and your family. Even if there's no rabies involved, a dog's attack and bites can be painful and traumatizing, especially for children. If you've been raising your dog the wrong way, there may still be time for change—dogs are amazingly malleable and will respond quickly to loving care.

Dog walk

Still on animal welfare, the Philippine Canine Club Inc. (PCCI), Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) and other groups are co-sponsoring a Dog Walk on Sunday, May 8. To avoid the scorching summer sun, the event will start at 4 a.m. at different assembly points—PAWS will start at the Malate Church parking lot. The walk will be around the PICC area. The idea is a kind of Alay Lakad for dogs, raising public awareness about animal welfare and also to break a Guinness world record for dog walking.

You need to register the dogs beforehand—they have to be vaccinated against rabies on or before April 24, 2005, and only one dog is allowed per dog owner or dog walker. You can fax the dog's vaccination certificate to PAWS at 475-1688 or 724-1986, labeled "Dog Walk," with your contact details. They will then contact you to confirm registration. You can also call 0917-8315970 (PAWS) or 4124105 (PCCI) for more information.

If your dog isn't eligible (shame, shame, you forgot to have her vaccinated, right?), you might want to show up without the dog and cheer the dogwalkers. The event should end around 6:30 a.m. or 7 a.m.

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Pathetic cure for doctors' exodus

EVEN if I have been out of the Philippine medical loop for a while, I still keep myself abreast with what is happening in the medical community in the Philippines through constant communication with my former colleagues there. I was in the country last February for a month's vacation, and from what I gathered from them, private medical practice is not getting any brighter, much more for those in government service.

I believe that the "2 proposals to keep Filipino doctors from going abroad" (PDI, 4/30/05) are very pathetic proposals which will not keep the young ones from leaving. Doctors do not see a greener future in the medical practice there. Income is just one of the many issues confounding medical practice in government hospitals or the whole government health care system itself.

Give government doctors the compensation that executives in government corporations (who do nothing but make the government sink deeper into the fiscal quagmire) are getting, and they will stay for a few years. Give them a good working environment, and they will stay a few years more. Give them the technology and the other tools to make them practice their profession well and to give their patients more hope, and they will stay and retire there.

The problem of Filipino doctors leaving the Philippines has evolved into a complex issue that involves not just money. Unless something is done about this, we will see no light at the end of the tunnel.

—**OSCAR BAYNA,**
orbayna@comcast.net

Dog-eating, ultimate betrayal of a friend

THIS is in reaction to the March 17, article in the INQUIRER regarding dog-eating and stray dog control.

I agree with La Trinidad board members Juan Nazarro Jr. and and Aloysius Kato on the need to require owners to register their dogs. This elementary animal control measure has been successfully implemented by Marikina City's Animal Control and Protection Office (Apco). There are already close to 20,000 registered dogs in that city alone. When dogs are registered, they are given rabies vaccination (if they don't have yet), and the owners pay an annual fee of P75. Apco also strictly punishes those who stubbornly refuse to obey the law on pet dogs; as a result, the real culprits are punished and not the dogs.

I am, however, disappointed by Nazarro's declaration as a dog-eater. This would be good only if he is saying it out of guilt and is promising not to promote this disgusting practice again; otherwise, this will only serve to embolden dog-meat traders.

When I was still the shelter manager of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society, someone once defended dog-eating by saying that he only slaughtered dogs raised for their meat, but love those he kept as pets. I had to explain to this misguided soul that in the eyes of all his dogs (those to be eaten and those to be petted), he and his family are their parents and friends; and for that, they will forever give them their unconditional love, loyalty and even lives.

There is no way for these dogs to understand why some of them are brutally killed and eaten by the one who profess to love them. This is the ultimate betrayal of a friend.

I too, love Baguio—I lived there once. I also agree with the honorable Nazarro about the strawberries and vegetable. But, if our concern is the image of Baguio, especially with foreign tourists, then we should get rid of the dog-eating practice because this issue alone is a festering wart on the face of the City of Pines, if not on the entire Philippines.

When I first visited the United States, the very first question I was asked was "Do Filipinos really eat dogs?" In one episode of "Frasier," a popular TV sitcom, Frasier, who was manning the radio announcer booth, uttered something like "we will now take a few minutes' break—enough time for you to get some snacks, and for Filipinos to cook their dogs." That particular episode generated a lot of angry reactions from the Filipino community, including some Philippine officials.

So you see, nobody likes to be labeled a "dog-eater," that is, except maybe the likes of Nazarro and Davao Mayor Rodrigo Duterte. The latter once said that he is willing to go to jail for eating dogs—this was when Republic Act 8485 (Animal Welfare Act) was first passed. Here is a government official openly defying a national law. As of this writing, the Philippine government has yet to seriously enforce the Animal Welfare Act and grant Duterte's request.

—**OSCAR LEI,**
oscarlei_toronto@yahoo.ca

Not party to misconduct

THIS pertains to a news item published in the April 9 issue of the INQUIRER, implicating me and others as parties to an alleged misconduct. ("Top Navy official faces corruption probe")

May I clarify that transactions made before Nov. 4, 2004, the day I assumed as acting commander of the Philippine fleet, were beyond my knowledge and accountability. So it was impossible for me to have consolidated all direct support funds of the Philippine fleet from the second to the fourth quarter of 2004. In fact, I was able to satisfy almost all of the requirements of the units under my command despite the meager remaining budget for that year's direct support fund.

I did not withhold or withdraw any transactions of RADM Gilmer B. Batestil, AFP. All transactions of the previous commander pushed through. Also, there were never any ghost deliveries that happened during my brief tenure as acting commander of the Philippine fleet.

On the changes I made with regard to my staff, let it be said that officers normally follow a particular route for career advancement.

I hope this clears my name which I have faithfully kept untarnished during my entire military career.

—**RADM JOAQUIN**
YRASTORZA TAN, AFP (ret.)

THE ARTICLE was based on a complaint and on an interview with the spokesman of the Philippine Navy. As far as I know, the investigation is still going on.

—**DONA Z. PAZZIBUGAN**

Healthy labor-management ties

AS the duly recognized organization representing employers in the formulation of labor and social policy issues, the Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) wishes to clarify that the employers have not prejudged the issue of wage adjustments that are the subject of public hearings at the regional wage boards.

It was presumptuous for the "unnamed official of a major business association" to claim that employers are willing to grant a wage increase of P25 to P30." (PDI, 5/3/05) We ask the public to be cautious about any attempt to politicize these discussions and manipulate the process just to raise false hopes among our workers.

We are sympathetic with the workers' request for higher wages. Consequently, our participation in the public hearings in the wage boards will aim to strike a balance between the demand of the workers for relief from the rising costs of living and the need to preserve jobs.

An important factor that should be considered in discussions before wage boards is that productivity and wage adjustments should go hand in hand. It is competitiveness in the market that will enable companies to provide more for their workers.

Another important consideration is the impact of wage adjustments particularly on the viability of small and medium enterprises. We are a nation of SMEs, the main generators of jobs and incomes. About 99 percent of the more 800,000 business establishments are labor-intensive "micros," small and medium enterprises.

We take note that the President, despite the financial strain caused by our huge budget deficit, has come up with a Labor Day package that truly reflects her concern for all Filipino workers. From our perspective, employers through the ECOP will continue to seek a constructive and productive partnership with organized labor and our OFWs in order to move this country forward.

—**MIGUEL B. VARELA, chair, RENE**
Y. SORIANO, president,
Employers Confederation
of the Philippines,
2/F ECC Bldg.,
Sen Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

'Rubayyat' one last, brief comment

THANK you for devoting precious space to our work in court today. Please permit me one last brief comment, as the case is still sub judice in view of possible replies from adverse parties.

If columnist Conrado de Quiros could not appreciate the need for limits of judicial power in a constitutional system, so essential for the rule of law, I hope he should at least recognize when factual allegations are made without basis. I assure him there's no need to be personal, ours is work only. We have made our resolution, spiced by a quatrain from "Rubayyat."

Others might have contrary views. I need not lecture again on election law, or even on "computer law" as I did years ago. As for De Quiros' columns, more rubbing out might only be messy, counterproductive.

—**LEONARDO A. QUISUMBING,**
associate justice,
Supreme Court, Manila

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Question of the Week

More than 90 journalists have been killed in the Philippines since 1986. The Committee to Protect Journalists has identified the Philippines as "the most murderous country for journalists," followed by Iraq, Colombia, Bangladesh and Russia. What should be done to end the killings?

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Mug! :)*

Key in: Inquirer box name/age/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
(Maximum of 160 characters)

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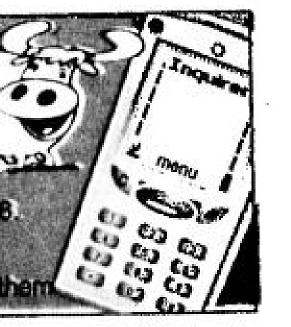

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Text us your feedback: inquirer atn name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) *Assistant Editor* **Tony Bergonia**

Solon seeks to postpone ARMM polls

COTABATO CITY—While everybody appears to be upbeat on the fifth regional elections in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, a Mindanao congressman has filed a bill in the House seeking a postponement of the elections.

Holding the political exercise would interrupt the "relative peace" the region is currently enjoying, according to Sulu Rep. Hussin Amin (Lakas, Sulu).

On Wednesday, Amin filed House Bill No. 4243 and House Resolution No. 776 in a bid to stop the holding of the ARMM elections scheduled on Aug. 8 this year.

If approved, it would be the second time that the scheduled elections in the region would be canceled. Voters are to select a governor, a vice governor and 24 members of the regional legislative body.

The bill gives President Macapagal-Arroyo the authority to name officers in charge upon the expiration of the terms of office of the incumbent officials.

Gov. Parouk Hussin and other ARMM elected officials will step down from office on Sept. 30.

Political parties have selected their candidates, aspirants have filed their certificates of candidacy and the Commission on Elections claimed it is prepared.

The deadline for filing of certificates was moved from April 30 to May 6.

According to Amin, holding elections this year will not only disturb the "prevailing peace" in the ARMM, but "will also affect efforts of the national government, along with the regional government, to implement economic development programs."

In September last year, a law was passed resetting the Nov. 26 balloting to Aug. 8 this year. In a statement, Amin said the silence of Ms Arroyo on her choice as Lakas standard-bearer for the gubernatorial post prompted him to file the bill.

He said the ruling political party cannot afford to be fragmented as a result of the President's non-endorsement of her candidate.

Ms Arroyo formed a selection committee that would choose from among Lakas aspirants who would be the party's standard-bearer. The list has been submitted to Malacañang but sources close to the party claimed the President might declare the elections a "free zone" for party members.

The committee, headed by Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Deles, named Mayor Zaldy Ampatuan as its first choice.

The League of Municipalities of the Philippines in the ARMM sided with Amin's view saying the President should not spare the region from her call for national unity. *Edwin O. Fernandez and Nash B. Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

4 killed in gun duel

SAN CARLOS CITY—Four people were shot dead on Wednesday when quarreling members of a family exchanged gunfire during a wake for a dead relative in Barangay Cobol here. Police said Norberto Mendoza, 42, was playing card games when a cousin, Ernesto Mendoza, allegedly shot and killed him with a cal. 30 Carbine. Norberto's son, William, who was at the wake, retaliated by shooting Ernesto. The wounded Ernesto fired indiscriminately, killing Rodrigo Mamaril, 50, and his daughter Liza, 20, both bystanders. Mamaril's wife, Erlinda, 48, was also shot and wounded and is now in serious condition at a hospital here. Rogelio Domantay, 35, of Malasiqui town, reacted by getting hold of cousin Ernesto's Carbine, which he used to shoot the fleeing William. Police arrested Domantay.

Eric Montoya, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

University pact

TUGUEGARAO CITY—The Ajou University in South Korea signed a memorandum of understanding with St. Paul University here for a student, faculty and personnel exchange program. The agreement intends to encourage the exchange of faculty, research and administrative personnel for lectures and consultations.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

15 nabbed for 'jueteng'

TIWI, Albay—After failing to get police support, Vice Mayor Ruth Corral sought the help of the Army in her bid to stamp out "jueteng" in this town. On April 21, she and a 10-man team of the Army's Scout Rangers from the 9th Scout Ranger Co. raided a jueteng safehouse in Purok 9, Barangay Tigbi here. Her group arrested 15 persons inside the safehouse allegedly owned by a certain Thelma Mercader. Seized from the safehouse were jueteng paraphernalia and P9,751 in cash in various denominations. Judge Samuel Buendia, presiding judge of the Tiwi-Malinao Municipal Circuit Trial Court, issued the warrant of arrest against Magadia, Josemea and others. Corral disclosed that the jueteng operation in her town had siphoned over P2 million a month from Tiwi alone.

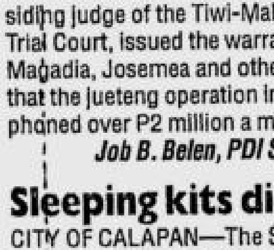
Job B. Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Sleeping kits distributed

CITY OF CALAPAN—The Sleeping Children of the World-Canada Chapter and the Kiwanis International gave away on April 22-23 more than 1,000 sleeping kits worth about P1.4 million to poor children in Oriental Mindoro. Each kit cost P1,350 and consisted of everyday paraphernalia and sleeping items like blanket, mosquito net, pillow, school bag, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, slippers and sleeping clothes. Playground equipment like seesaw, hammock and slides will be turned over to the daycare center in Sitio Kulo-Kulo, Barangay Bulusan here, according to Calapan Kiwanis Club president Nestor Panahon.

Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

New Legazpi market



LEGAZPI CITY—This city's new public market will be inaugurated on Thursday and will open to the public on the first week of May. The market was constructed with a P110-million loan from the Philippine National Bank, according to Mayor Noel Rosal. It has three floors, with the ground floor for personal effects, groceries and general merchandise, cereals, and food stalls. The second floor houses fish and marine products; meat and meat preparation; and fruits and vegetables. On the roof deck, ambulant vendors are allocated 202 stalls. The market, located at Circumferential Road, Legazpi City, has a total land area of 7,491 sq m and owned by the City of Legazpi.

Ma. Reynalyn Adones, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Overcoming anger

EVERYONE loses the plot occasionally as anger rears its less than pretty head. How can one change the anger within and use energy in more positive ways? A workshop that will discuss the underlying causes of anger, its effects on one's well-being and using one's energy in a more productive way, will be held at 4 p.m. May 7 until 5 p.m. May 8 at the Brahma Kumaris Center for Spiritual Learning located at 1020 Magallanes Drive, Tagaytay City. For details, call (02)890-7960; (02)4149421; (046)413-2188.

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Bayan Muna decries tag of CPP 'front'

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—A top official of Bayan Muna in Samar is appealing to Major Gen. Jovito Palparan, head of the 8th Infantry Division, to stop labeling their group as a front of the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA).

Villareal Mayor Renato la Torre, Bayan Muna coordinator of Samar, said the tag was "unfair" and "without any basis," considering that Bayan Muna "is a legitimate political organization recognized under our legal system."

"Bayan Muna is not, in anyway, connected with the CPP-NPA. It is a registered and an accredited political party," he told the INQUIRER.

La Torre ran and won as mayor of Villareal, about 60 km from Tacloban, under the Bayan Muna political party during the 2004 elections.

Palparan earlier accused Bayan Muna and other militant groups of being "fronts" of the CPP-NPA. He said he favored de-listing these groups among the country's political organizations.

La Torre said that if Palparan had any evidence linking Bayan Muna to the communist group, he should present this before proper authorities and not harass their members.

He said he would not object if Palparan would decide to put up a military detachment in his town just to dispel insinuations that his group was a "front" of the communist group.

"I will welcome it," he said. Villareal is just 35 km from Camp Maulong, the headquarters of the 8th ID, in Catlabogan town, Samar.

La Torre told the INQUIRER that the series of attacks on Bayan Muna members were "a cause of alarm."

"We are all living within the democratic framework. If there is evidence, then by all means invite them (militant members) and ask them if they have any involvement with the communist group and not resort to this brutal and barbaric acts," he said.

"I must admit that I am worried for my own security. That is why I could not just go anywhere. My work as a town mayor is now affected (because) I fear that what happened to some of my colleagues might also happen to me," La Torre said.

At least three Bayan Muna members in Eastern Visayas were either killed or wounded by unidentified men.

Last March 14, two unidentified men in a motorcycle shot Felidito Dacut, Bayan Muna coordinator in Eastern Visayas, while he was in a jeep along Real Street in Tacloban.

Last April 15, Bayan Muna member Alfredo Davis, 45, was gunned down by two unidentified men in Barangay San Vicente, Mahaplag town, Leyte. His wife Imelda, a member of Gabriela, was wounded.

Motorcycle-riding men also shot and wounded Aldin Ambida, Bayan Muna coordinator in Eastern Samar, on April 9 in Borongan town, Eastern Samar.

Cop kills fellow cop over 'mahjong'

By Felipe V. Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—A policeman shot dead his fellow cop following a heated argument on Monday afternoon during a mahjong session in Poblacion Ilaya, Panitan town, Capiz.

SPO3 Eisen Delgado, of the Dao police station, died after five bullets pierced his kidneys, intestines and lungs.

His assailant, SPO4 Alfonso Diestro, assistant chief of the Traffic Management Group in Capiz, suffered bullet wounds in the hand, thigh and hip.

Police in Panitan filed murder charges against Diestro, who was confined at the Capiz Emmanuel Hospital here.

Police said Diestro and Delgado, who were both off duty, were playing mahjong at the house of a Nick Camanay in Poblacion Ilaya when a heated argument ensued between the two.

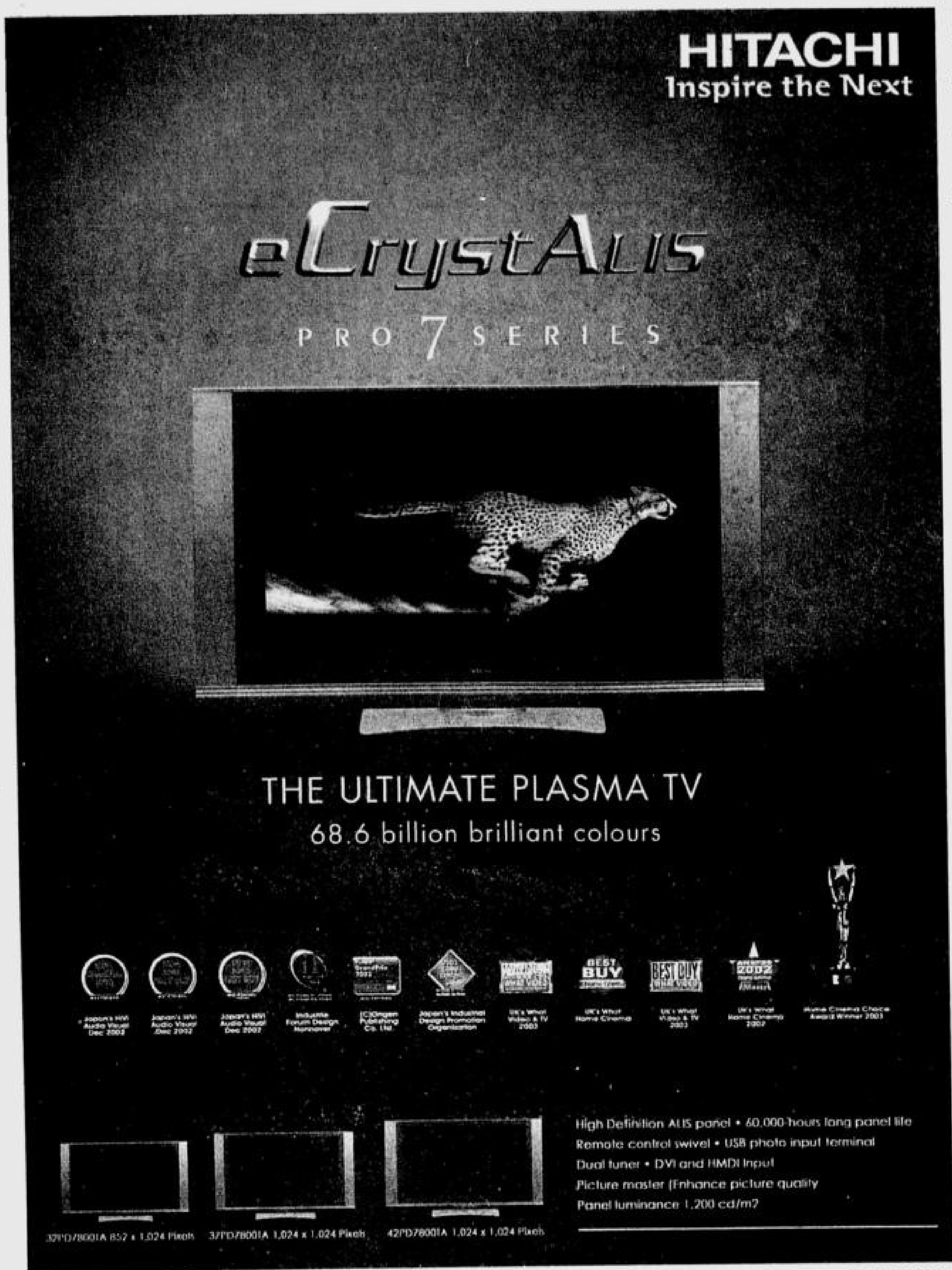
SPO3 Oscar Dumol of the Panitan police said Diestro told Delgado to play properly, insinuating that the latter was not playing fair.

Delgado apparently took offense at Diestro's remark and retorted that he was not cheating. Diestro then stood, took out his .45 cal. pistol and shot Delgado.

Although he was hit, Delgado managed to fire his .38 cal. pistol at Diestro.

The exchange of fire prompted the people inside Camanay's house to scamper for safety.

Delgado, a resident of Barangay Lanot here, was rushed to the Capiz Emmanuel Hospital in Roxas, about 10 km from Panitan, but doctors declared him dead on arrival.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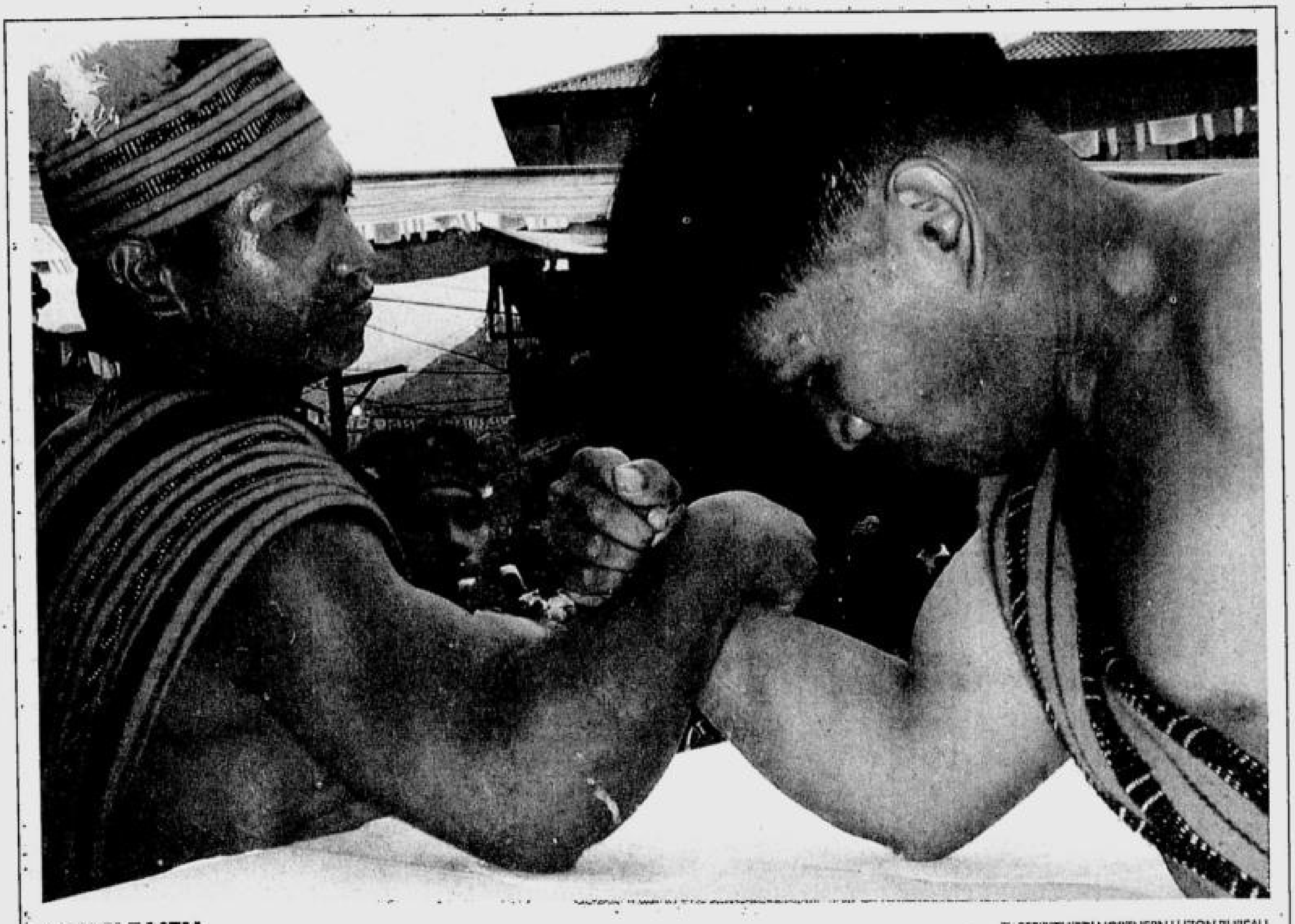


MUSCLE MEN EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Competitors test their strength in an arm wrestling contest held in celebration of Ifugao's 8th Imbayan Festival.

Group assails DENR release of 'ipil' lumber

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Palawan's Environmental Task Force has appealed the decision of an environment regional director releasing a truck and 60 pieces of *ipil* lumber that the task force had seized earlier.

The Kilusan Sagip Kalikasan (KSK), the special environmental monitoring team of the province, protested the order of Department of Environment and Natural Resources OIC-regional director Pobleo Florece, arguing that the order did not consider the questionable documents presented by the alleged owner of the freshly cut *ipil* lumber.

Total log ban

Palawan has imposed a total log ban.

Based on the appeal, the KSK and the DENR-Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) and the Criminal Detection and Investigation Group apprehended an Isuzu truck containing 60 pieces (1,326 bd ft) of old and freshly cut *ipil*, in a KSK checkpoint at about 1 a.m. last Jan. 28.

When the truck passengers were asked about the documents, a certain Oliver Lalican, who represented the owner, only showed a certification from the Cenro of Roxas town that the lumber pieces were taken from a dismantled warehouse. But beneath the old lumber were freshly cut *ipil* lumber. The volume of the lumber also did not tally with that indicated in the document.

It has been a known fact in Palawan that some illegal loggers used this modus operandi to show that the transport of lumber is legal.

Surprise, surprise

But during the administrative hearing on Feb. 1, complainant KSK was surprised to know that the alleged owner, a certain engineer Wilfredo Navarro, presented a certification from a farmers' cooperative that the freshly cut *ipil* pieces were from a community-based forest management (CBFM) project.

On this ground, Florece held that the shipment was properly covered by transport documents and the seizure was illegal.

But KSK maintained that there was an anomaly in the shipment because when they verified from the cooperative that allegedly issued the CBFM certification, its officers denied they gave anything because until now, they don't have an environmental compliance certificate from the DENR. *Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Ilocos cop chief welcomes probe of radioman's shooting

SENIOR Supt. Mario Subagan, outgoing provincial commander of Ilocos Sur, has welcomed the announced plan of the Philippine National Police to investigate the ambush of Nestor Seguismundo, a defeated candidate in the last provincial elections.

"I am confident an impartial investigation will clear me of any involvement in the case," Subagan said in a press statement as he decried efforts to link him to the ambush.

Seguismundo, who started as a radio "blocktimer" after he was defeated in his bid for a seat in the provincial board in the last elections, was shot and wounded by unidentified men in front of his house in Bantay, Ilocos Sur, at around 9:30 p.m. on April 29.

Subagan said Seguismundo has "many enemies."

"Before the last elections, Seguismundo was charged with mauling 30-year-old May Layug of Vigan town and the case, docketed as Criminal Case No. 13072, is awaiting resolution," Subagan said.

"I welcome an impartial investigation of the case. Seguismundo himself knows he has made many enemies… I'm also sure he knows I'm not the one behind his ambush," Subagan said.

PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao was quoted as saying police were looking at three possible motives—Seguismundo's criticism of "jueteng," politics and the alleged overprice of a piece of real estate bought by the Bantay municipal government.

Baguio officials ask for help on dump fire

BAGUIO CITY—City officials have gone to the administrators of the Payatas dump in Quezon City for advice on how to quell a methane-induced fire that has been eating the bottom of Baguio's only dump for eight weeks now.

But they are now debating the logic of the Payatas solution.

City experts have been pushing the city council to allocate P1.3 million to buy tons of earth and water to stop the fire.

Payatas experts, however, told Baguio officials last month to simply cover the dump with a thin layer of soil to block all potential air passages through the mounds of garbage, to choke the fire, said Romeo Concio, chief of the city's general services office.

Concio helped establish a solid waste management system for the city when he supervised garbage disposal and the 2.5-hectare landfill.

He said covering the surface of the dump with thin soil layer helped quell a fire that erupted in 2003. "It's really simple. Take away the oxygen and the fire will consume itself," he said.

Digging the landfill up, and filling it with water, will only endanger the dump because water will liquefy underground soil support, causing the massive garbage pile to collapse, he said.

Rhoda Fe Buenavista, an ecologist of the Jaime V. Ongpin Foundation Inc. (JVOFI), said the city government sent four teams of a technical working group to solicit solutions to the fire and to compare notes on a viable solid waste management formula for the city dump.

But experts at Payatas could only provide generic solutions, she said. Experts continue to debate the value of their suggestions, she said, because experts from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources have also offered a different option.

However, once these debates end, Buenavista said authorities must begin to respond to the people of the dump.

She said air quality tests seem to suggest that the toxic smog arising from the methane fire has drifted to portions of downtown Baguio at certain hours of the day.

People in Barangay Irisan, where the dump is located, have been complaining of lung ailments due apparently to the fire, she said.

Buenavista said the JVOFI has begun dialogues with the dump residents, many of whom earn their living as waste pickers.

"They have been told to stay away from the dump because the [two-month long] fire may have rendered the whole [area] unstable. We don't want accidents…," she said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Cavite gov sacks 3 jail guards after jailbreaks

A SERIES of jailbreaks at the Cavite Provincial Jail has prompted Gov. Ayong Maliksi to order the relief of three provincial jail officials following an investigation by a committee.

On April 27, inmate Maem Sarip, alias Maymay, 19, of Barangay Datu Esmael, Dasmariñas, Cavite, who was arrested for frustrated murder last Aug. 6, bolted the jail by allegedly paying a large amount of money to the guards. Prior to this, three jailbreaks involving other prisoners occurred.

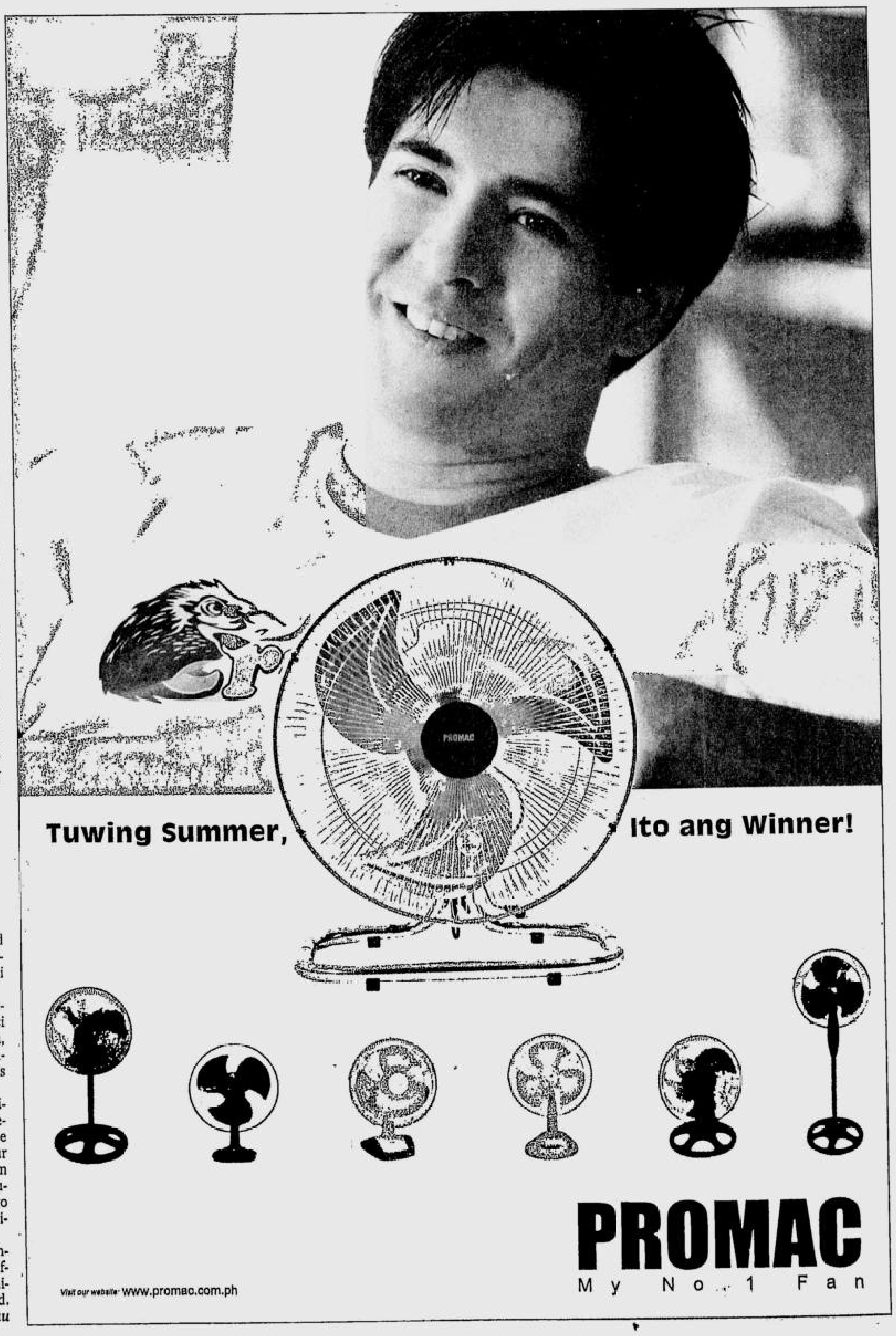
Senior Supt. Roberto Rosales, provincial police chief, expressed alarm at the three initial jailbreaks.

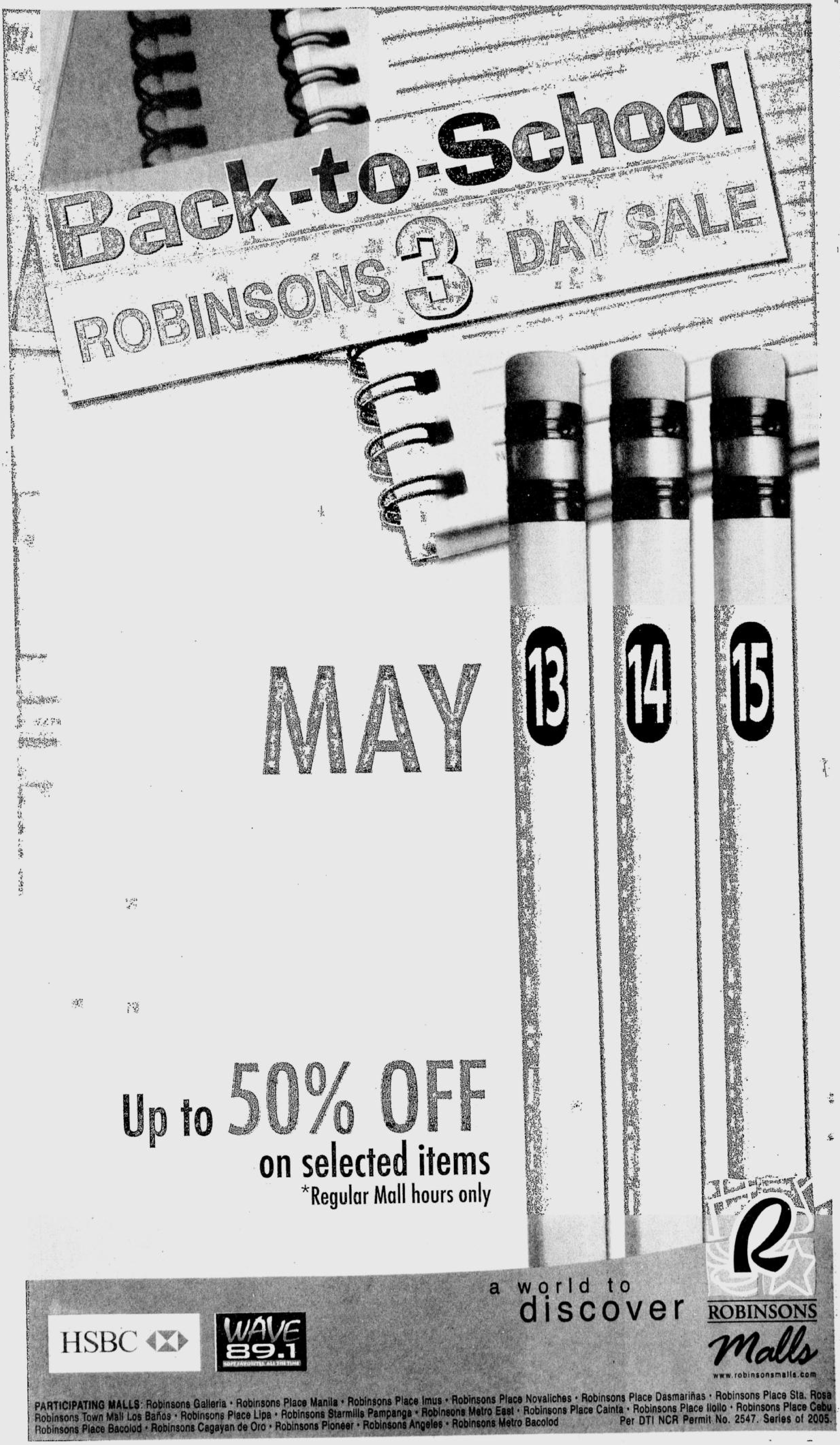
In February, Rosales filed administrative and criminal cases against provincial Jail Warden Dante Malabanan, his assistant, Severino Lubigan, and jail guard Oscar Mendoza. After the last jailbreak, Rosales requested Maliksi to suspend the three jail officials.

Acting upon the resolution created by the committee, Maliksi immediately ordered Malabanan, Lubigan and Mendoza to relinquish their posts, as part of steps to restructure the provincial jail.

Lawyer Leilani Dacanay-Grimares, chief of the provincial legal office and a member of the committee, said, "based on our investigation, it has already been the practice of provincial jail authorities to allow inmates to go out for varied personal and political reasons…"

"The ratio of jail guards to inmates is not sufficient for the effective implementation of criminal law in the province," she said. *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*





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From page A1

Yorac, resigned chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, said the use of the coconut levy funds for Golez's perks was questionable.

Not policy

"I don't even think it's a policy. There's not even a resolution from the [CIIF] board allowing it," said Yorac, who, in an April 27 letter to United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) chair Jose Perez, questioned the use of the coconut levy funds for the perks and benefits of top CIIF officials.

Yorac said the practice could have started when the coconut industry was under the control of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco during the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' regime. "I think it's been going on since then," she said.

She also said that the grant of the perks was quite arbitrary and decided only by a committee of three members, and that the auditing procedure was questionable.

Golez himself heads a CIIF team that audits company expenses.

Ms Arroyo initially named Golez to the UCPB board of directors in 2001.

A group of CIIF employees had earlier said Golez had constantly dropped the President's name "to convey his strong influence."

The CIIF was recently reported as ready to shell out about P2 billion in coconut levy funds to finance a coconut research facility and plantation in Agusan del Sur—a project questioned by top officials of the Philippine Coconut Authority.

P25,000 weekly for gas

In the radio interview, Golez admitted receiving a Nissan Patrol worth at least P2 million when he assumed office as CIIF head.

He also admitted spending P25,000 weekly on gasoline for two vehicles, but said he needed to load up for trips to the provinces.

The CIIF employees had questioned the amount of Golez's gas money, saying he did not need that much fuel because he lived near the company office in San Lorenzo Village, Makati.

Golez likewise admitted traveling abroad eight times, with his wife and some friends, at CIIF expense. He said the trips were official and his mission was to negotiate better terms with foreign firms on oil production, shipping and processing.

According to the CIIF employees, the company spent at least P2 million for the airfare alone of the Golez couple—he in first class, and she in business class.

The employees also said the CIIF spent at least P6 million for Golez's trips to the United States and Europe.

Golez did not deny the trips, but said these were productive because he succeeded in negotiating lower shipping costs for the CIIF products, mainly coconut oil, being exported to other countries.

Golf club privileges

The group of CIIF employees said at least P960,000 in company funds was spent on privileges for Golez at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

Golez acknowledged this, but said that he did not own shares in the club and that the money was for "playing rights" only.

He said he needed to play golf and spend time at exclusive golf and country clubs because this was how he sometimes conducted official business and meetings with CIIF clients or partners.

He also admitted that his wife had bought golfing shoes, but denied that CIIF money had been used.

"It was charged to my pay," he said. "I can't understand the big fuss about [the golf shoes]. Why include it [in the accusations]?"

The CIIF employees also said Golez was behind the P70-million in losses that the company had incurred—an amount projected to reach P100 million.

Golez admitted this was true, but said it was not his fault and was a result of the nature of the coconut industry.

"This industry is cyclical. You know, when there is no supply of copra, our mills are not operating," he said.

No luxuries

In Lucena City, Rene Cerilla, representative of the Quezon coconut farmers to the UCPB-General Insurance, told the INQUIRER that the benefits he and his group had been receiving were far from luxurious.

Cerilla said he had been receiving P22,800 every two months—P16,000 in per diems and P6,800 in representation and transportation allowances.

He said he and his group had long sought a general meeting of all 31 farmers' representatives, but this was being "thwarted by the bloc identified with ... Cojuangco."

"We want to find out the general status of the different companies funded by the coconut levy money, and to also set the common agenda to protect the interest of the millions of coconut farmers. But unfortunately we don't have the numbers to pursue our plans," Cerilla said in a phone interview.

He said the Cojuangco bloc had 16 representatives and his group, only 15.

House inquiry

Quezon Representatives Lorenzo "Erin" Tañada III and Proceso Alcala said they would call for a House inquiry into the financial situation of all companies funded by the multibillion-peso coconut levy fund.

Tañada said he was "completely aghast" by Yorac's disclosure on the perks of Golez and company. He said no CIIF official had the license to "misuse or overuse" the company's financial resources.

"The CIIF board of directors should be held accountable for their lavish lifestyle, considering that coconut farmers are among those who still continue to live in poverty," he said, adding:

"Are they really working for the interest of the coconut farmers? Or they are too preoccupied in pursuing their own interests? It is obvious that they have not been acting in the best interest of the coconut farmers, which they are mandated to do. How are these people chosen and appointed to the position, in the first place?"

Meeting with Yorac

Alcala said all four Quezon lawmakers would also seek a meeting with Yorac to confer on how to effectively protect the coconut levy fund.

"Now that [Yorac is] retired from the government, she's free to discuss plans and strategies on how to effectively protect the interest of the coconut farmers," Alcala said. *With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Philip C. Tubeza in Manila*

COA to present audit report to Senate

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE COMMISSION on Audit is set to present nine reports on the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) to the Senate committee on agriculture and food.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. requested the COA to bring the reports on the audits conducted from 1986 to 2002 to next week's hearing on the proposed hybrid coconut nursery project in Agusan del Sur, according to Manuel Quiambao, a leader of the Bantay Marcos Wealth and Coco Levy Fund coalition.

The Senate is holding hearings on the Agusan project following claims by resigned Philippine Coconut Authority administrator Evangeline Valbuena that a portion of the P8.4 billion needed for the project would be taken from the CIIF.

Quiambao, who attended the hearing on April 26, quoted a COA representative as saying that the CIIF had been audited by the commission's Special Audit Office.

He said the nine audit reports would be critical in exposing the excesses of CIIF officials and the failed investments that could have been made by CIIF boards from the Aquino to the Estrada administrations.

The private firm SGV audits the CIIF annually, but a separate report from the COA would "lend a certain level of credibility" to the findings on the CIIF's financial status, he said.

Quiambao said past administrations had been quiet on the misspending and failed investments of CIIF boards because the agency had also become "a milking cow" for the national government: "The problem is political will. There has been no regular audit because each administration has made it a milking cow, from Cory [Aquino] to GMA (President Macapagal-Arroyo)."

He said it was during the term of jailed President Joseph Estrada that the affiliates of former Marcos crony, Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, managed to get huge loans from the United Coconut Planters Bank, the administrator of the CIIF.

Quiambao urged the 30 farmer-representatives sitting on the boards of the CIIF and its subsidiaries to take a stand against the abuse of CIIF officers.

"They are blind to it because they don't see the whole picture," he said, adding that even the farmer-representatives were getting fat salaries and many perks.

"The PCGG should also take decisive control over the CIIF now that the abuses have been exposed," he said.

Palace tells Yorac: Thanks but no thanks

From page A1

lar and periodic audits."

"All of these are subject to audit... The information could be released at some later date," he said.

Yorac had questioned the CIIF top officials' use of company funds for the purchase of luxury vehicles, travel privileges and memberships in golf clubs, among other perks. *(See story on this page.)*

The new PCGG chair, Camilo Sabio, yesterday told the INQUIRER that Commissioner William Dichoso was "investigating the information given by former chair Yorac."

When Dichoso, who heads the PCGG's Asset Management Department, completes his inquiry, he will present his findings to the commissioners at an en banc meeting, Sabio said in a brief phone interview.

"Whatever should not have been done should not continue. And we are doing something about chair Yorac's comments on the CIIF," he added.

Yorac resigned last month to return to private law practice and attend to her health problems. But recently, she told the INQUIRER that Malacañang had pressured her to quit because of her contrary position on the sale of the government shares in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.

Not a fighter

Victims of human rights violations during martial law are not too keen on Sabio's appointment as PCGG chair, but are willing to give him a chance.

Akbayan Rep. Loretta Anne Rosales told the INQUIRER that other victims had "not expressed enthusiasm" over Sabio's appointment.

"The resignation of Haydee Yorac was unfortunate because she was very effective at her job," Rosales said. "I understand Chairman Sabio is a nice and mild-mannered man, but we need a person with guts and integrity. I think he has never been perceived as a fighter, not as independent-minded [as Yorac]."

But while she does not have "as much confidence" in Sabio, it is only fair to "give him a chance," Rosales said.

Marie Hilao-Enriquez of the human rights group Karapatan, said Sabio would have to live up to whatever Yorac had accomplished in the PCGG.

"I hope he does better in the recovery of the Marcos wealth. Let's give him the benefit of the doubt," Enriquez said.

But she pointed out that Karapatan had never been excited over whoever was designated PCGG chair.

"The track record of the PCGG in the recovery of the ill-gotten wealth is, we think, dismal," she said. "And the appointment of Sabio to the position of PCGG chair has no bearing on our opinion."

Hell again

Enriquez called on Sabio to "give priority" to the 10,000 victims of human rights violations and not require them to go through a "validation process" prior to being compensated.

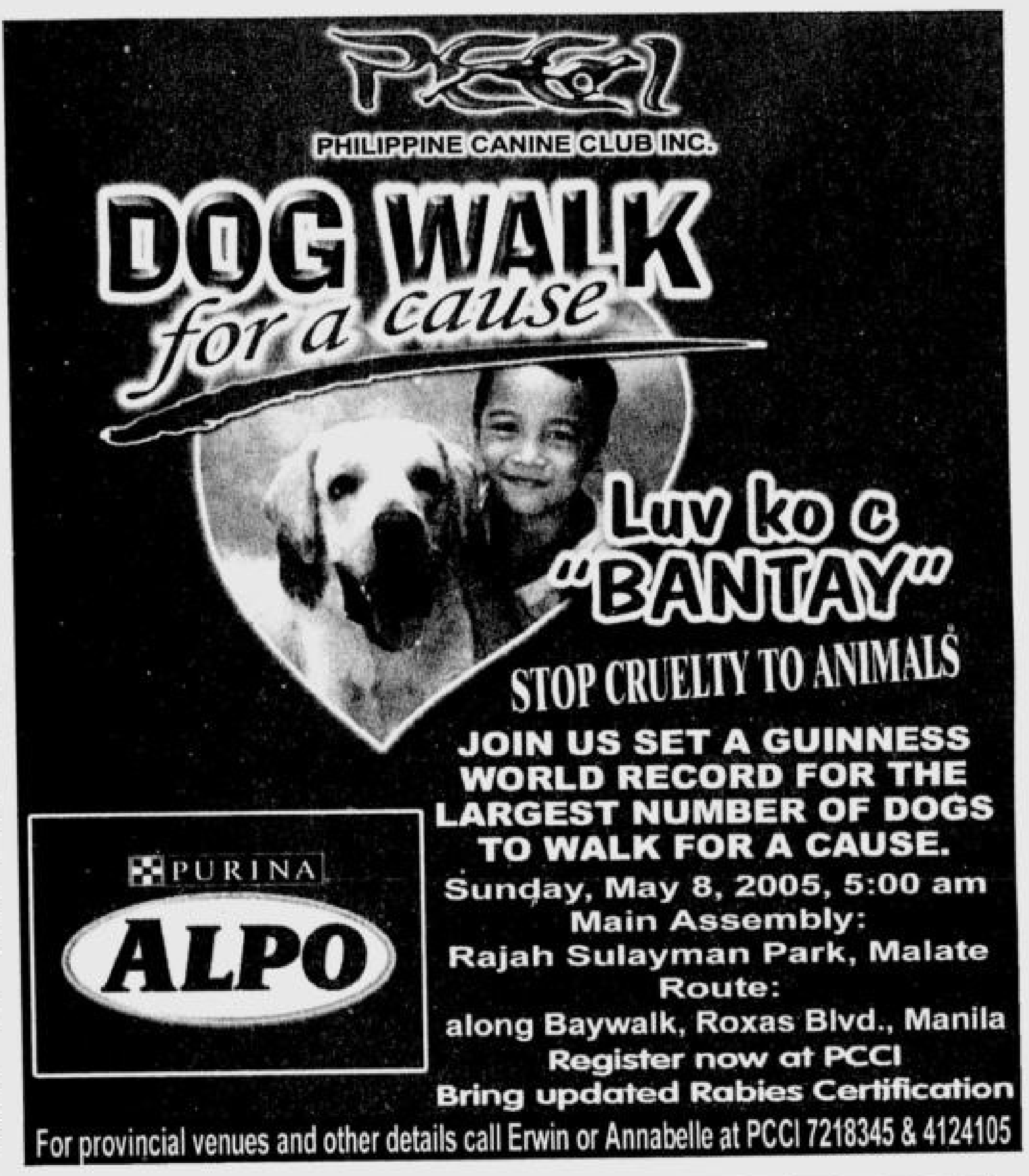
"We would like the new PCGG chair to support us and scrap the plan for this validation process where we would have to recount our ordeal all over again. We don't want to go through hell again," she said.

Enriquez said Sabio should support the victims' move to just prove that they were included in the class action suit filed against Ferdinand Marcos and his heirs before a Hawaii court, shortly after the former strongman was toppled from power in 1986.

In 1992, Hawaii District Court Judge Manuel Real awarded the victims $2 billion in damages after finding the late dictator responsible for summary executions, disappearances and torture during his 14-year martial rule.

The amount has since grown to $3.7 billion, but the victims have yet to receive their share of the award.

Rosales and Enriquez are the more prominent leaders of the two main groups of victims. The two groups are at odds over the issue of compensation.



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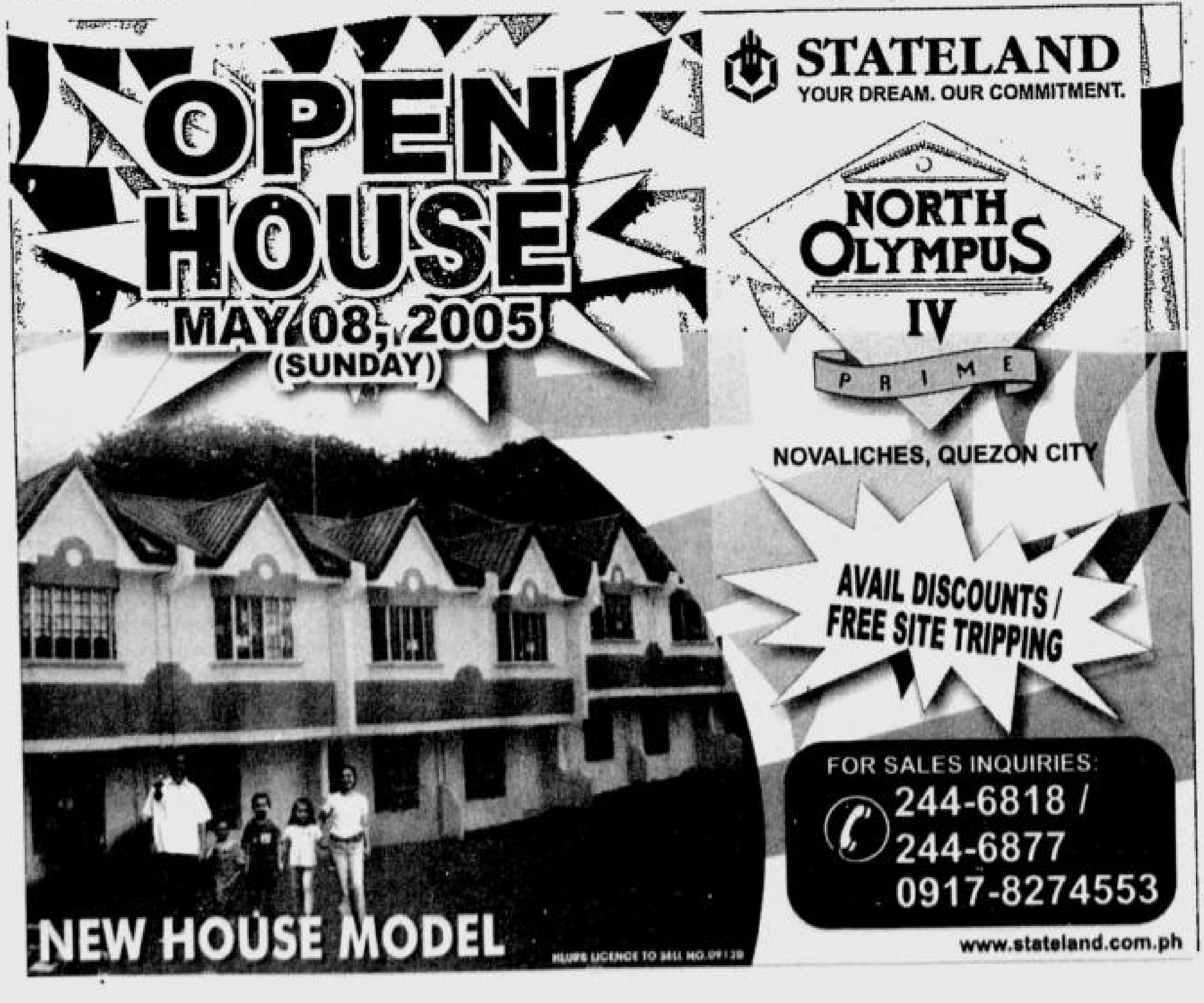

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'His children were the people,' says Taruc son

From page A1

was 92.

His body lies at Funeraria Paz in Quezon City. Burial has been scheduled on Sunday at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

"I was not just his only son. His children were the people," Romeo Taruc, 69, a board member of Land Bank of the Philippines, said on the night his father died.

Middle ground

President Macapagal-Arroyo also praised Luis Taruc "not only as a fighter for the poor and the oppressed, but also a champion of peace."

"His memory will always remind us that even at times of ideological strife, there is always a window for rebels and government to pursue a middle-ground based on democracy and social justice—for a nation to unite and heal itself," Ms Arroyo said in a statement.

The Encyclopedia Britannica described the elder Taruc as "a hero of the Philippine anti-Japanese resistance" during World War II.

Born to peasants on June 21, 1913, in the Central Luzon province of Tarlac, Taruc and other communist leaders in 1942 formed the Hukbong Bayan Laban sa Hapon (People's Army Against the Japanese). With about 30,000 armed guerrillas, the Hukbalahap became one of the best organized anti-Japanese resistance movements in Asia.

Many poor farmers in northern Luzon and the central Panay islands were attracted to the Huks because of their emphasis on land reform, and the group installed shadow governments in at least five provinces.

Excluded

Although they fought side by side with the Americans, the colonial masters then, the Huks were excluded from all government posts after the war. Landlords returned to Central Luzon and the military police as well as civilian guards massacred the Huks.

Still, Taruc was fielded as a candidate for congressman by the Democratic Alliance, a loose grouping of progressive professionals who opposed collaborators and sought social reforms in the April 1946 elections.

Despite much harassment during the electoral campaign, Taruc and all DA candidates in Central Luzon won seats in Congress. President Manuel Roxas' Liberal Party, however, passed a resolution ousting three duly elected senators and nine congressmen, including those from the Democratic Alliance on a spurious charge of electoral fraud.

The move reportedly ensured the passage by Congress of the Parity Amendment and other unequal treaties that the United States was pushing.

Disappointed, the Huks openly declared their communist orientation, renamed their group Hukbong Mapagpalaya sa Bayan (People's Liberation Army), and launched an armed insurrection that some historians consider to be the forerunner of the present-day communist New People's Army.

Romeo Taruc recalled the six months that he spent with his father, the Huk supremo, in the mountains of Central Luzon in 1951. Romeo was only about 15 years old then.

"It was exciting. We were on the run all the time. Danger lurked everywhere," said Romeo.

He said his father was a "gentle man" who would cook meals for his family and fellow guerrillas.

"When I was with him in the mountains, I was often given special treatment by his followers because I was his son. He put a stop to that," the young Taruc said.

Romeo was arrested by the military, but was released after a year in various detention camps.

The government under President Elpidio Quirino launched a vigorous US-backed military campaign against the Huks. In 1954, following months of negotiations, the elder Taruc surrendered. Benigno S. Aquino Jr. had served as then Defense Secretary Ramon Magsaysay's emissary and convinced the elder Taruc to turn himself in.

He spent 12 years in prison before being pardoned by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

The elder Taruc spent his retirement actively participating in various civic works.

Survival skills

Last year, at the invitation of running priest Fr. Robert Reyes, Taruc shared his "wartime" survival skills during the launching of the Coconut-Camote Kita movement which aimed to inspire reliance on homegrown crops as a way of coping with the hard times.

Three weeks before his death, Taruc was still involved in distributing livestock and seeds for tree-planting to members of a farmers' cooperative he had put up in Infanta, Quezon. *With reports from AP and PDI Research*

Despite Iraq . . .

From page A1

curred at Britain's consulate in New York City, but that nobody was hurt. It was not immediately known whether there was any connection with the election.

Blair, accompanied by his wife Cherie, cast a vote in his northern English constituency of Sedgefield, where he is being challenged by several candidates, including Reg Keys, an independent who lost a son in the Iraq war.

52nd birthday

The premier, who will celebrate his 52nd birthday on Friday, voted about three hours after polling stations opened nationwide at 7 a.m. (2 p.m. in Manila).

They were scheduled to close at 10 p.m. (5 a.m. Friday here), with the winning party likely to be confirmed some time in the early hours of Friday morning.

Michael Howard, the leader of the main opposition Conservative Party, was scheduled to cast his ballot in the southern English port city of Folkestone around 2 p.m.

More than 44 million voters are eligible to vote in 645 constituencies in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, with a vote in one postponed because of the death of a candidate.

Negative, personal campaign

The voting caps a one-month official campaign that was often negative and personal, though the three main parties, including the increasingly popular antiwar Liberal Democrats, had been jockeying for position for months.

Blair's Labor Party won landslide victories in 1997 and 2001, but Blair's popularity has waned since he chose to send troops in support of the US-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003.

The conflict, and especially Blair's rationale for joining it, has haunted the premier throughout a difficult election campaign during which his Conservative opponent Howard openly labelled him a liar.

Nonetheless, a raft of new opinion polls reiterated expectations that Labor was heading for another victory, albeit by a smaller margin than previously.

First time

It would be the first time the once-socialist, now centrist party has won three elections in a row since it was founded in 1900.

A win would also propel Blair into the pantheon of modern British political giants alongside former Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who won three successive victories from 1979 to 1987.

At a polling station in Hammersmith-Fulham, probably the tightest race in London, Jane Wess, 30, cast her vote.

"I voted LibDems, because I'm very much against the war in Iraq, and against (university) tuition fees. I used to vote Labor but before Blair, I don't like him," she said. "There's not much difference between Labor and LibDem anyway."

Misgivings over Iraq

Millions of other voters, however, were tipped to stay loyal in recognition of Blair's spending on the government-run National Health Service, state schools and other public amenities.

In contrast to the goodwill seen in 1997 and 2001, many have said they will put their cross next to Labor despite misgivings, notably over Iraq, voting as some have put it "with pegs on our noses."

Blair himself has warned repeatedly that if enough disgruntled Labor voters, or even those just confident of a Labor win, stay at home, it could bring a "back door" win for the main opposition Conservative Party.

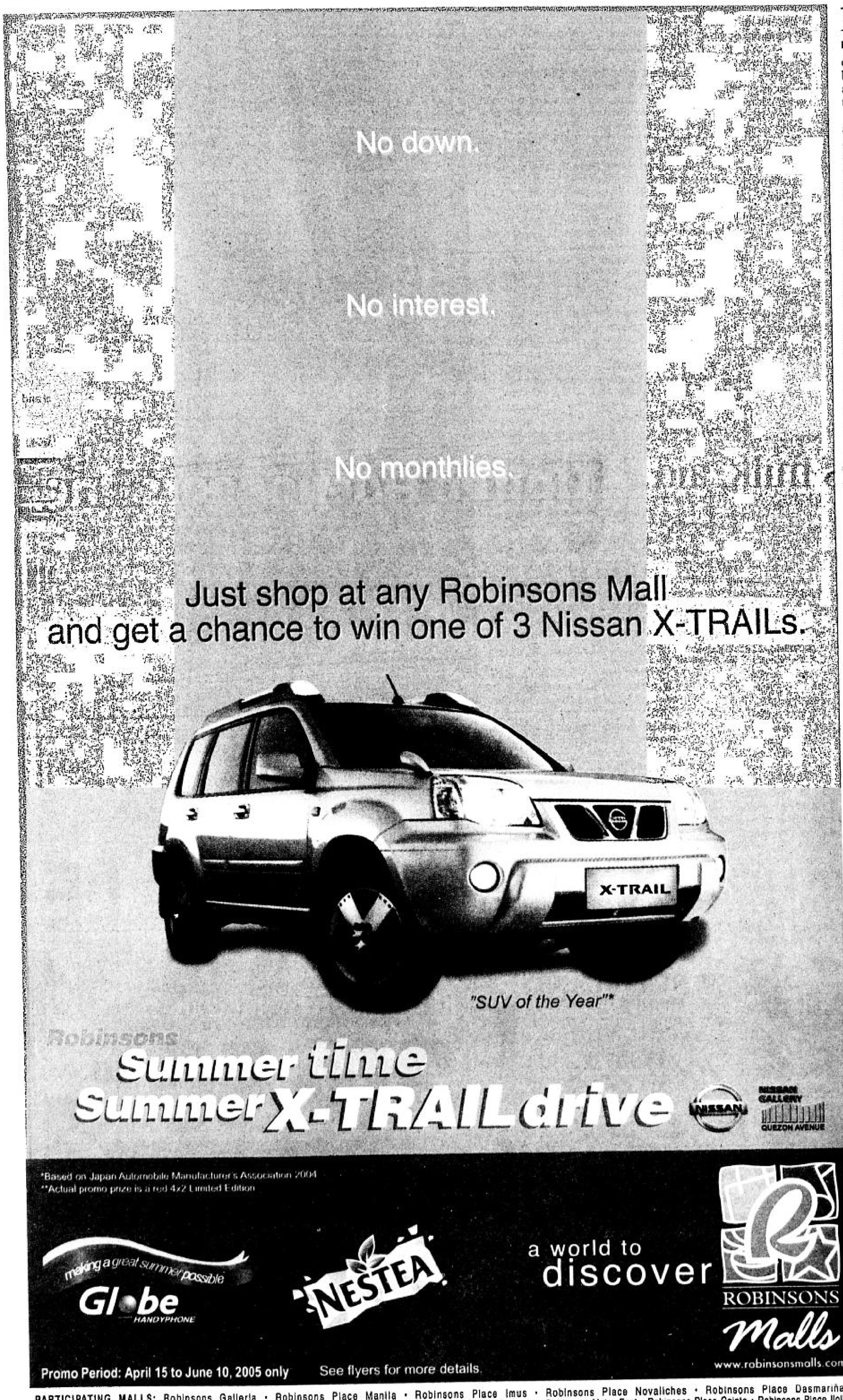
Analysts dismiss this as extremely unlikely, but also note that the turnout could easily fall below the 59.4 percent seen in 2001, itself the lowest figure since World War I.

Lee Gorman, 48, a London-based employee at an American computer company, summed up the jaded mood when she disclosed she did not expect to vote.

"The campaign has just passed me by, it has not been at all flamboyant so even if I did vote I would not know who to vote for. It definitely would not be Labor," Gorman said.

Election day was further marred by news of two small blasts outside a building that houses the British consulate in New York City in the early hours of Thursday, but there were no injuries or structural damage.

They occurred at 3:35 a.m. (3:35 p.m. here) and police were investigating, CNN said, in a report confirmed by the British government. AFP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Ramos slay probers eye rob angle

By Tarra V. Quismundo

MORE than a week after the brutal killing of her sister, Leticia Ramos, the younger sister of slain Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Alicia Ramos, finally gave police a list of items missing from their Makati City home after unidentified men broke into their house on April 24.

"She has submitted a partial list of lost items as part of her supplemental affidavit," said Chief Supt. Wilfredo Garcia, Southern Police District Director.

Leticia had listed as missing from her sister's room Alicia's Rolex watch, an undetermined amount of jewelry, and two cellular phones. She did not declare any losses of her own, said Garcia.

The district director said Ramos's inventory was "partial," as investigators expected her to declare other personal belongings she had lost in the Sunday morning burglary.

"The losses could establish a motive for the break-in," Garcia said.

The district police chief said Task Force Ramos, the composite team of investigators assembled to look for Ramos' killers, continued to gather statements from witnesses, including neighbors of the Ramoses.

The task force, he said, was also banking on the results of the DNA tests on shavings taken from the fingernails of the slain career diplomat, as these could give forensic investigators a clue on the identities of her attackers. Police had said the DFA official may have fought off her killers.

The DNA tests are due in less than two weeks, said Garcia.

NBI raises alarm over fake Schengen visas

FILIPINOS planning trips to Europe, beware.

The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has raised the alarm on the proliferation of fake Schengen visas in the country.

"We are warning Filipino tourists planning to go to Europe that there is a new modus operandi involving the replication of fake Schengen visas," said Ricardo Diaz, head of the NBI's international police division.

The visa got its name from a town in Luxembourg, where in July 1985, member states of the European Union agreed to adapt a single visa.

The European Union website at www.eurounion.org lists 25 member states with four countries pending entry into the grouping.

Diaz said that instead of merely altering the genuine visa by cutting and pasting its details onto a fake copy, the counterfeiters now use computers in scanning the original Schengen visa.

The Interpol chief said the bureau received complaints from victims Alona Lubay, Susan Gurdula, Elias Eran and Jane Villanueva who were recently duped by a certain Marichu Monje.

Monje had asked the Italy-bound victims P120,000 each in exchange for Schengen visas, Diaz said.

But upon verification with the Italian Embassy, the NBI found out that the fake visas were a result of scanning an original visa that was issued to Ma. Carenina Santiago on Jan. 23, 2004.

"It used to be very easy to obtain a Schengen visa, but the authorities imposed stricter measures when they discovered that many Filipinos used their tourist visas to illegally work and overstay abroad," Diaz said. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Couple shot dead in QC robbery

By DJ Yap

A BUSINESSMAN and a woman believed to be his wife were gunned down in broad daylight on Araneta Avenue yesterday in Quezon City.

The pair was on board a silver Honda CRV approaching E. Rodriguez Avenue when the light turned red, and two men armed with .45-caliber pistols approached them, police said.

One of the suspects broke the car window using his gun and then repeatedly shot the man in the passenger seat, identified as Efraim Go Young. The other suspect went to the opposite side and shot the woman police identified later as Wendalyn Go Young, according to witnesses. A witness said that Wendalyn even raised her arms in surrender, but the suspect still shot her in the back. The witness added that one of the suspects took a black bag held by Efraim.

The suspects then walked towards a motorcycle with a man on board, and sped off toward Sta. Mesa, Manila. Efraim died on the spot, while Wendalyn was rushed to St Luke's Medical Center, but did not make it alive. Supt. Procopio Lipana, of the Central Police District, said the suspects could be "Abuyog Group" members who tail their victims on their way or coming from banks. It was not clear, however, if the Youngs had any bank transaction that day.

Fat is not where it's at for contented cop

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THREE months ago, this heavyset traffic cop could not ride his motorcycle with the bearing and deportment that his duty—and uniform—required.

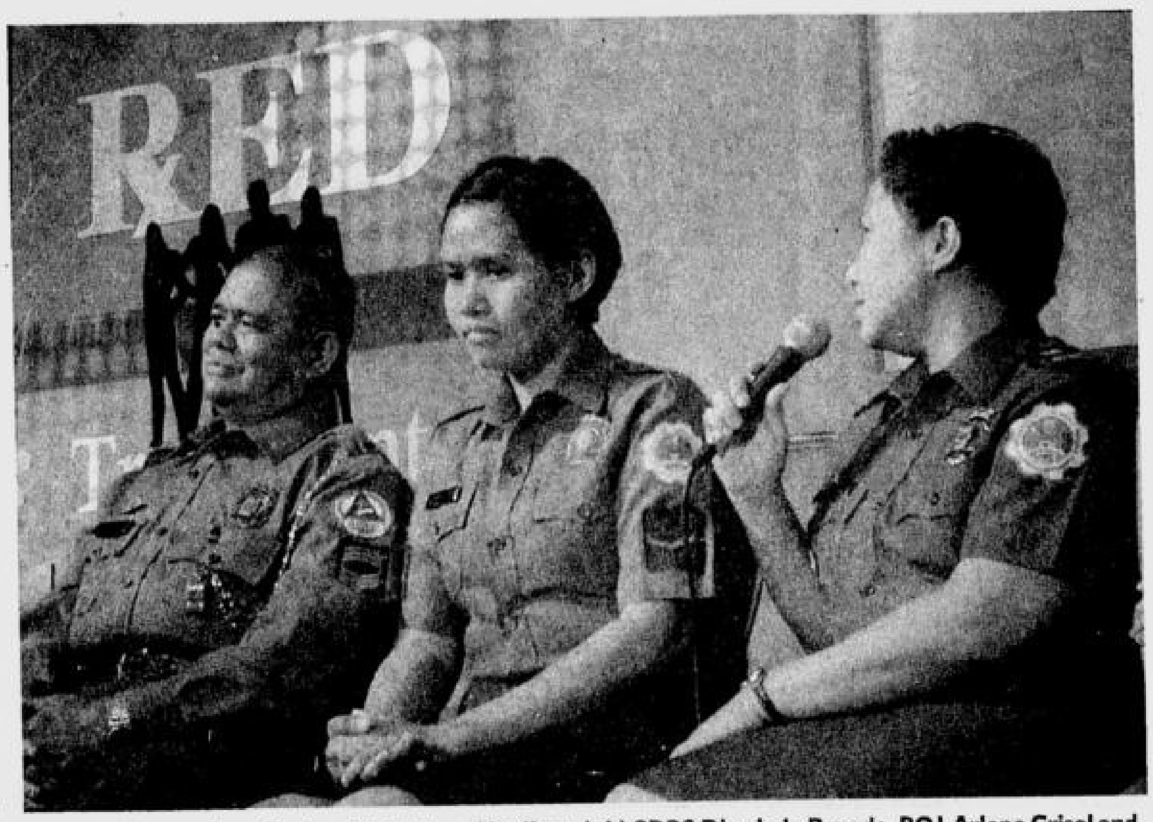
Today, almost 40 pounds lighter, Senior Police Officer 2 Diosdado Ranada proudly cruises Edsa head high and chest out. Whenever he needs to direct the traffic flow, he would get off his bike with new found ease.

Ranada, 46, is assigned to the Traffic Management Group of the Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters in Camp Crame. He is one of the success stories that the PNP brags about, after 104 policemen were subjected to a three-month weight loss program assisted by Abbott Laboratories.

Ranada was down to 200 pounds from 238 pounds at the end of the weight loss program. "Before, whenever I got on my bike, I felt ashamed because I was too heavy. I always had flat tires," said Ranada, who was one of the weight loss "motivators" in yesterday's launch of the RED Treatment, Abbott's national anti-obesity program.

Obesity, a disease defined as the "excessive accumulation of body fat," is a global epidemic that afflicts 24 percent of the country's population. The obese have a shorter life span and face greater chances in acquiring heart diseases and diabetes, said endocrinologist Estrellita Lopez.

Out of the roughly 120,000 PNP personnel, 30 percent are obese, said Eduardo Tanchoco, Chief of Clinics at the PNP General Hospital.



THE NEW attraction of being thin is shared by (from left) SPO2 Diosdado Ranada, PO1 Arlene Crisol and Chief Insp. Maria Cristina Nobleza during a forum yesterday at the New World Hotel in Makati City. The three are among 104 law enforcers who took part in a weight-loss program sponsored by a multinational drug company.

JOSEPH AGCAOILI

Taguig pledges milk, aid to Gregorio quadruplets

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

RENATO Gregorio need not worry about his newborn quadruplets' milk rations for the entire year.

The Taguig City government yesterday promised to provide the Gregorio babies one year's supply of milk.

Officials also delivered the other day a box of milk and a box of diapers for the quadruplets in their small house in Taguig City.

A grateful Gregorio yesterday thanked the INQUIRER for running a story on his plight. "Thank you very much for the help," he said in a phone interview yesterday.

Gregorio said he could now concentrate on saving money to pay off debts he had incurred for the medicines of his wife and the new additions to the family. Mary Jane, Mary Grace, Mary Cristy and Mary Christine were born at the Rizal Medical Center on April 21.

Gregorio was happy to have four new daughters. But with the babies, came new worries. As a security guard, he earns only about P10,000 monthly. His wife is unemployed. There are four other children in the household.

The INQUIRER ran a story the other day on Gregorio who had asked help from the newspaper. The story apparently reached Taguig City Mayor Freddie Tinga, who is in Turkey for a lecture.

"Mayor (Tinga) read the story. He immediately called us and gave us orders to help the family," city public information officer Ana Santos said. The city government also promised to provide scholarships for the quadruplets when they start school.

Help overflowed for the babies when news about their birth first broke.

Taguig City Rep. Alan Cayetano, Gregorio's employer, fellow employees, neighbors, and even strangers had also extended help.

Legislator wants public parking fees outlawed

By Philip C. Tubeza

PASIG City Rep. Robert "Dodot" Jaworski asked Congress yesterday to ban both private and public establishments, including hospitals, from charging parking fees from their customers or patients.

Jaworski filed House Bill 4217 which would make it illegal for hospitals, malls, hotels, restaurants, and other establishments to collect fees from their customers who use their parking spaces.

"The sad thing here is that we are forced to pay as much as P150 for eight hours parking while we are in shopping malls, restaurants and even hospitals," Jaworski said.

"It is high time that that we put this to an end since it is the job of these building owners that we have a space to use in patronizing their establishment," he added.

Jaworski also pointed out that under the National Building Code these establishments should provide parking spaces for free.

The code stated that owners "should at least provide a percentage of space accessible in the form of proper parking space," he added.

"The collection is unreasonable because it even beats the taxi meter. These land owners also charge customers even for a minute's use of their parking lots," Jaworski said.

He said parking fees ranged from P25 to P30 for a two hour stay, adding that the collection was "added gravy to the profits of the business owners."

Based on the average fee, landowners could earn as much as P108,000 a day or P3 million a month for a parking area that can accommodate 100 vehicles, Jaworski said.

Worse, these owners are not liable if the parked vehicles are carnapped, he added.

Under Jaworski's bill, business owners caught collecting parking fees would no longer be issued building permits and would have to pay a fine ranging from P50,000 to P100,000.

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Policemen in mistake shooting 'detained'

NO DISMISSAL just yet.

Three policemen who allegedly shot innocent motorists by mistake in Navotas Thursday have been virtually detained after they were restricted to their office.

Apparently, the Northern Police District (NPD) is handling by the book the case of the three members of its Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team.

"Pending investigation the policemen have been disarmed and are now restricted to the office," said Supt. Raul Gonzales, NPD director.

Charges possible

Earlier, Gonzales said Police Officers 2 Rodel Ramos, Pedro Reyes, and Rigor Lyasol could face charges of frustrated homicide and grave threats for their involvement in the incident at a Shell gasoline station along C-3 Road.

He also said that the three could face possible dismissal from the service if found guilty of opening fire at the FX van carrying members of the Bagtas and Buera families.

Though none of the 11 passengers, including a five-year old girl, was hurt, the FX van was riddled with bullets.

The van, police said, was similar to the getaway vehicle of suspects who had robbed a bakery in Caloocan City minutes before the incident.

The Bagtas and Buera familes were reportedly on their way to San Pablo, Laguna, when they stopped at the Shell station to fill up their tank.

SWAT members pursuing the robbery suspects from Caloocan spotted the FX van at the gasoline station.

Shot without provocation

Believing that the van was the getaway vehicle of the suspects, the policemen opened fire at the vehicle without checking on its occupants.

Upon realizing that they had made a mistake, the policemen allegedly left without a word.

Gonzales said he would wait for the results of the investigation before taking any action against the lawmen.

"I would wait for the investigators report before I make the necessary action," Gonzales said.

Due process should be extended to the policemen involved, the NPD director pointed out.

Pressed to comment on why he had softened his stand on the SWAT members, Gonzales said, "I don't want to influence the outcome of the investigation."

The case is being handled by Supt. Napoleon Cuaton, chief of the Intelligence and Detective Management unit of the Caloocan City police.

Refresher course

Gonzales also said that because of the incident, he had directed all SWAT members from Caloocan City, Malabon City, Navotas and Valenzuela City to report to the district office for a refresher course on the rules of engagement.

Apart from the refresher course, the NPD chief said NPD SWAT teams would be undergoing retraining.

"They were supposed to undergo retraining but the lack of logistics had delayed our plans," he added.

The NPD director added that he would seek the help of higher authorities for the project.

"I am sure they would take cognizance of the endeavor and would act favorably," Gonzales said.

Lack of training due to scarcity of funds has been a perennial problem of the police. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

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Asi presents new papers to Wycoco

By Margaux C. Ortiz

TAULAVA

TALK 'N Text's most prized center strikes back.

Suspended cager Asi Taulava yesterday presented new documents in a bid to prove his Filipino roots and counter falsification of public documents and perjury charges filed against him by the National Bureau of Investigation.

Taulava, who arrived in the country last Saturday after spending nearly two months in Tonga, showed copies of his birth registration, the death registration of his maternal grandmother, and his parents' marriage certificate.

"It was a very expensive trip, but it was worth it," Taulava said during a press conference at the NBI headquarters, adding that he was hoping to be given the chance to represent the country again in basketball tournaments.

Taulava added, "It has been a long six months for me."

Eduardo Francisco, Taulava's counsel, said Taulava's birth certificate showed that her mother Pauline Hernandez Mateaki was born in the Philippines.

Francisco also said the death certificate of Ana Hernandez Mateaki, Taulava's maternal grandmother, certified that she and Pauline were Filipino citizens. Fransciso added that the marriage certificate showed that Pauline was naturalized as a Tongan national on Sept. 8, 1976.

NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said they would forward the documents to the Department of Justice "for their appreciation."

"We would also subject this to further investigation," Wycoco said.

Cebuana Lhuillier pulls out of BAP commitment

By Musong R. Castillo

CEBUANA Lhuillier pulled the plug on the Basketball Association of the Philippines, but will not renege on its patriotic duty of supporting the sport.

The giant pawnshop company assured POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco of supporting the squad which will be formed by the powerful basketball committee after putting an end to its BAP program that started three years ago.

Jean Henri Lhuillier, who manages operations of the family-owned pawnshop empire, personally gave this assurance to Cojuangco in a meeting at the former Congressman's home Wednesday night.

"The Lhuillier family feels that it is their patriotic duty to continue supporting the sport, not the BAP," said Cojuangco spokesperson Joey Romasanta.

The pull-out was triggered by the negative publicity surrounding the BAP team in the last month or so, including the debacle it suffered in the National Basketball Conference to the Parañaque Jets.

This development comes as a big blow to the BAP, which is desperately trying to maintain control of the basketball program to two Southeast Asian tournaments set later this year.

The BAP came out of a make-or-break meeting yesterday morning and is still unaware of the Lhuillier decision.

Members of the BAP board agreed to continue forming their own team at the same time that Chot Reyes forms the basketball committee's selection, and will bat for a combination of both squads.

Go Teng Kok, special assistant to Cojuangco, brokered the BAP meeting in the hope of ending the internal crisis.

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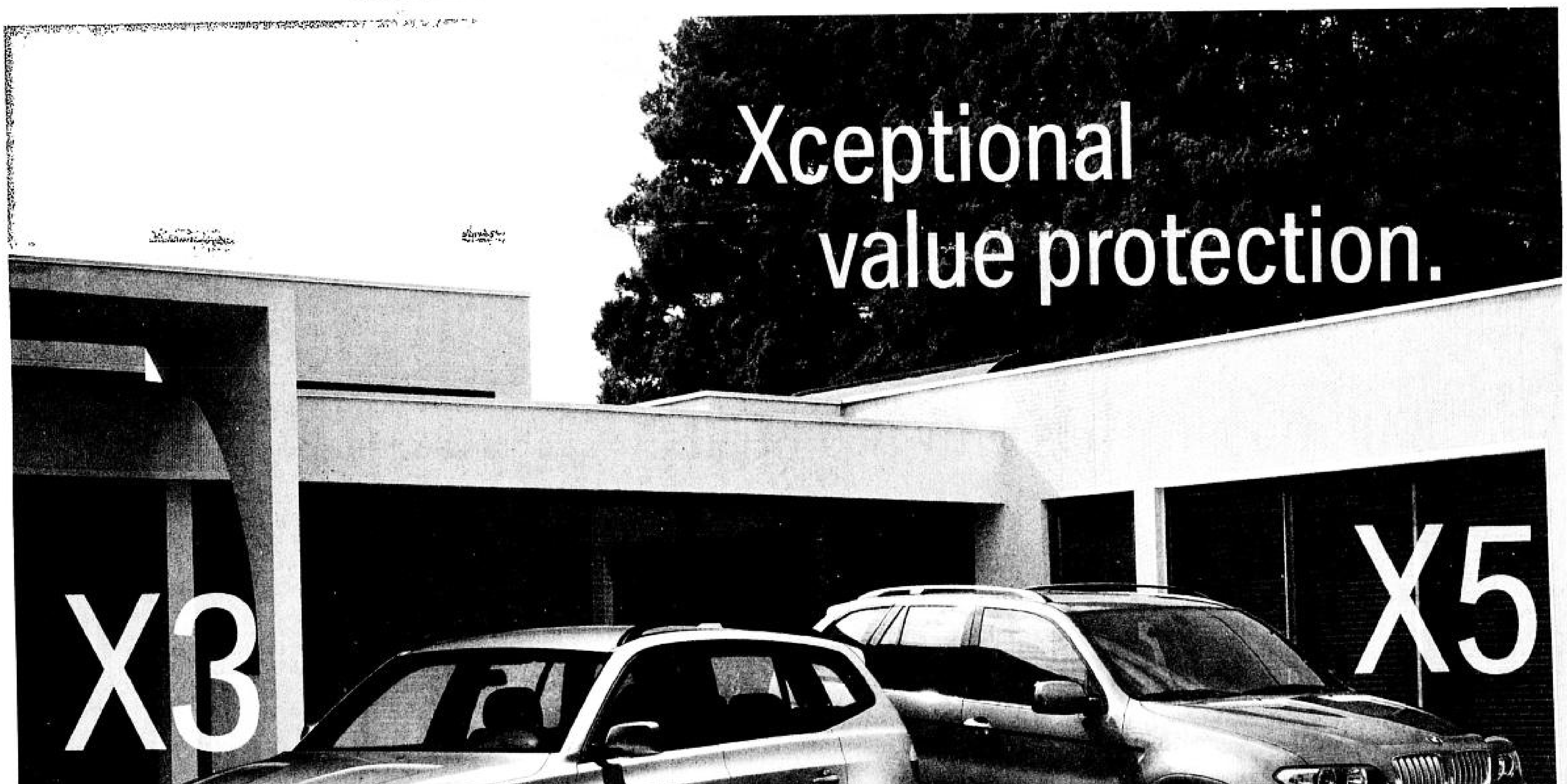

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Far Eastern spikers enter second round

DIANNE Cu keeps the play alive for Far Eastern against University of Mindanao-Davao.

ERNIE SARMIENTO

By Ernie A. Gonzales

BORACAY—From tailender to contender.

This was the sudden transformation Far Eastern University underwent in one year as it crushed the opposition at the start of the ninth Nestea Beach Volley yesterday in this island paradise.

FEU's Rolan Macahia and Jesse Lopez, who finished 12th and last during the 2004 Boracay competitions, affirmed their new billing as tournament favorites, going 2-0 and assuring themselves of a slot in the next round.

"Hopefully, this will go to the end," said Lopez, a tanned 19-year-old Sports and Recreation Management student. "We still need to play well in the next round."

The FEU pair showed remarkable flair in beating University of Mindanao-Tagum, 21-15, in the morning and men's defending champion University of San Jose Recoletos, 21-15, in the afternoon.

The identical wins scored before a big summer crowd that braved the intense summer heat installed Macahia and Lopez, both tall and lean, as major contenders this year.

Vaunted game

The USJR tandem of Joseph Alguno and Jonrey "Air" Sasing failed to get its vaunted game going against the FEU bets. They trailed, 3-6, and only threatened at 13-14. FEU won seven of the next nine points to wrap up the match.

USJR fell to an even 1-1 record, counting its 21-15 win over UM-T earlier in the day. But all's not lost for the team, which only needs to perform well today to advance in the next round.

This year's sponsors are Speedo, Mikasa, Cebu Pacific, Hey Jude Resorts, La Salle Greenhills, Villa de Oro, Coppertone, Boracay Regency, Power Plant Mall, National Sports Grill and ClickTheCity.com.

After yesterday's round-robin elims, the top four teams will draw a bye with the lower eight disputing the four other slots for the next round. The quarterfinals will be played this afternoon, the semis tomorrow morning and the finals in the afternoon.

Adamson also went 2-0 after a 21-15 win over Ateneo de Davao and a 21-19 squeaker over University of Southern Philippines. Others in strong contention for the men's crown and the P100,000 top prize are St. Francis of Assisi (1-1), University of San Carlos (1-1), University of Southern Philippines (1-1) and St.Benilde (1-0), another one of the favorites.

On the women's side, Southwestern U remained on track toward a third straight crown while University of Mindanao-Tagum, USJR and the University of Visayas continued to lurk behind. UMT-2 is the only women's team at 2-0 as of presstime.

The spikers from Tagum, Liezl Manatad and Mylin Que, crushed Philippine Christian U-Manila, 21-13, before scraping past Foundation U, 21-19.

At 1-0 and favored to win their next matches were Southwestern, a 21-18 winner over Holy Cross of Davao; USJR, a 21-5 winner over Mindanao State U; and UV, a 21-14 winner over University of Mindanao.

Aside from the P100,000 top prize for the men's and women's champion, P50,000 worth of sports equipment will also go to the schools they represent.

GRAN MATADOR

Demape powers Realtors over Express

RITUALO PDI PHOTO

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:45 p.m.—Red Bull vs Shell
7:35 p.m.—Talk N Text vs Coca-Cola

By June Navarro

ANTIPOLO CITY—Gilbert Demape canned a three-pointer, stole a crucial FedEx possession and issued a picture-perfect pass to a gliding Kenneth Duremdes.

It all happened in the final two minutes, giving Sta. Lucia Realty a 94-85 victory over the Express in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Ynares Center last night.

San Miguel Beer bested Alaska, 81-76, in the second game to snap the Aces' seven-game winning streak.

The Beermen, who drew 16 points and 22 rebounds from Chris Burgess, improved their win-loss card to 8-4 and gained a share of the lead with the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals. The Aces fell to solo second at 8-5.

From a slim, 87-84, edge, the Realtors suddenly built a 92-84 bubble following Demape's trey and assist to Duremdes.

Ryan Fletcher tossed in 28 points and pulled down 17 rebounds, Dennis Espino had 24 and 14 while Duremdes came out of a slump by firing 23 points, grabbing seven boards and dishing out six assists.

Winning five of their last six games, the Realtors now moved to solo fifth at 6-7 while sending the Express to their seventh defeat in 12 outings.

Chester Tolomia and Nelbert Omolon successfully put the cuffs on Renren Ritualo, who erupted for 36 points, including nine triples, against Red Bull last week.

"Everybody's talking about Renren so we drew up a plan to stop him or at least limit him to 12 points," said Sta. Lucia Realty coach Alfrancis Chua.

Ritualo failed them as the league's premier rifleman finished with 14 points on six-of-15 shooting.

Ritualo, however, flubbed all of his three attempts from three-point range.

The scores:

STA. LUCIA 94—Fletcher 28, Espino 24, Duremdes 23, Omolon 10, Demape 5, Tolomoia 2, Gonzales 2, Calimag 0, Agapito 0, Mendoza 0.

FEDEX 85—Miller 27, Ritualo 14, Gonzales 8, Billones 8, David 7, Arboleda 6, De Ocampo 4, Ferriols 4, Codiñera 4, Pingris 3.

Quarters: 27-14, 48-47, 70-66, 94-85.

BAP monster has only two heads?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

COLLECTIVE calm deteriorated into chaos after it turned out that the national basketball monster had more than one head.

After POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco slew the dragon, so to speak, came another group that claimed it was the rightful representative of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP).

Cojuangco did contain the first upheaval after he convened a powerful basketball committee, composed of major stakeholders, that decided on how to form the RP national teams.

The move was both swift and sleek.

BAP sec-gen Graham Lim was made part of the powerhouse committee, although he was effectively benched.

In off-court power-play parlance, that was equal to clipping the wings.

Reports said Lim, ordered deported earlier for faking his citizenship, acceded meekly to the decision of the powerful Cojuangco committee.

He had vowed to cooperate.

* * *

But after national coach Chot Reyes, chosen to supervise national team composition, had named candidates to the RP squad to next month's Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) tournament in Singapore, the BAP monster instantly reared a second ugly head.

Filomeno Codiñera, amateur basketball vice president for the Visayas, announced it's the BAP that has the final say on which coach and team to send to the Seaba meet in Singapore.

Codiñera stressed the BAP board had named Boysie Zamar national coach two months ago, with powers to choose his players.

Codiñera said this board move could not be superseded by the decision of a hastily formed body, no matter its size and might.

* * *

Naturally, Codiñera's stand made the Cojuangco committee stand appear simplistic.

Go Teng Kok, partly credited for helping form the powerful Cojuangco committee, insisted that, with Graham Lim agreeing to cooperate with Cojuangco, the succeeding BAP protestation must be rendered moot.

No, Codiñera exclaimed, the BAP is not just Graham Lim.

Now backed by lawyer Boni Alentajan and members of the BAP board, Codiñera vowed to stand their ground.

What followed was a standoff, with Jean Henri Lhuillier next going to Cojuangco with an offer to pull out the national team his family had bankrolled from the BAP.

Lhuillier was obviously unhappy over the bad publicity his family had gotten over the monstrous basketball mess.

* * *

Well, there was nothing truly clear on the muddled amateur basketball horizon as we went to press.

However, national athletics chief Go Teng Kok said he had lunch yesterday with officials of the BAP at the Aloha Hotel.

Also in attendance were Tiny Literal, the seldom seen BAP head, and members of the RP national team training under the Lhuillier banner.

Go reported that everybody who attended the BAP lunch, including Codiñera, agreed to cooperate and follow the resolution adopted by the Cojuangco committee.

Go said Codiñera explained that he had failed to fully assess the merits of the agreement the BAP had initially reached with the Cojuangco committee.

Go said he even made International Amateur Basketball Federation (Fiba) president Carl Ming Ching talk over the phone to lawyer Alentajan during yesterday's lunch.

Go said Alentajan and his protesting colleagues in the BAP were very cordial to the Fiba chief.

They reportedly agreed to fully cooperate with the Cojuangco committee.

Go said Cojuangco and Joey Romansanta, his spokesperson, were invited.

Go said he had no idea why the POC duo failed to make it to the lunch at Aloha.

"Let's pray not," replied Go when asked if he's not afraid the BAP monster might rear another head.

SPORTSWATCH

Earlier BEST classes at Ateneo

MILO BEST Center official Marilyn Jorge announced yesterday that the volleyball and basketball classes at Ateneo de Manila University's covered courts this afternoon have been moved to an earlier time: 8 to 11 a.m. "The courts are not available because they will be used for a school activity," Jorge explained. Milo BEST's sessions in other venues will be held as scheduled, Jorge added.

Palawan holds Baragatan chess

NATIONAL Chess Federation of the Philippines vice president and Palawan provincial administrator Atty. Romeo Seratubias announced the staging of the 2005 Palawan Baragatan chess tournament from June 4 to 7 at the Provincial Capitol building in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. The event is open to all chess players. For details, call Puerto Princesa City Chess Association president NM Renato Seratubias at 0921-5589516. *M. Bernardino*

Bigtime 4-cocker today at PCC

QUALITY fights can be expected in today's bigtime 4-cock derby at the Pasay City Cockpit. The derby is sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Mite Free. Hosted by the Rule of Law group, it stakes a cash prize of P300,000. Among the entries are members of Batangas Cockers Club, Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association, Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines, and National Cockers Association.

Derby stakes P2 million, Big Horn

A GUARANTEED prize of P2 million and an imported Isuzu Big Horn 4x4 are at stake in today's championship round of "Game Ka Na Ba 5-Cock Derby" at Roligon Mega Cockpit. With more than 150 fights lined up, the event will start at 10 a.m. Thirty-five new participants are set to field five cocks each. Among the two pointers are Mauro Prieto of Palawan, former UCAP president Raymond Velayo, Eddie Appari and Rep. Ronnie Puno.

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Race 5—1. Court General 2. Patago 3. Gun Powder 4. Snow Princess
Race 6—1. Sugar Ray 2. Dashing 3. Solomioh 4. Democrat 5. Golden Touch
Race 7—1. Lamborghini 2. Shock and Awe 3. Angie Grey 4. Superwoman
Race 8—1. King Size 2. Batang Kalookan 3. Blitzkrieg 4. Playing Cool 5. Long Hitter
Race 9—1. Mano Po 2. Silver Eagle 3. Close Account 4. Hot Babe 5. Bashful Lady 6. Smart Kevin

---

RP Youth team finds a godmother in Ms Lina

LINA

SYLVIA Lina, the amiable wife of sportsman Bert Lina, is basketball's newest benefactor.

Ms Lina has indicated her willingness to support the national youth team, much like the way Bert Lina did prior to his appointment as commissioner of the Bureau of Customs.

"I am more than willing to continue what my husband did for basketball, especially for our youth players, who need our wholehearted support because they are the future of basketball in the country," said Lina, now acknowledged as the sport's godmother.

For starters, Lina said she is training her eyes on the products of the coming Six-Footers Basketball League, a brainchild of her husband. She said the top 20 players from the weeklong meet nationwide, will be taken care of—from their training and education to their exposure to international tournaments.

The unique tournament was conceptualized two years ago by the national youth team's godfather Bert Lina, who reasoned out that tall players trained to play like point guards will be the Philippines' greatest weapons in its quest to regain basketball supremacy in the Asian region.

"I would like to continue this successful program, which we all know has reaped fruitful dividends for the past two years," said Ms Lina.

BAP executive vice president Christian Tan welcomed the support of Ms Lina, saying the basketball body needs all the support that it can get. "Ms Lina's support to the youth team is something we in the BAP greatly appreciate," said Tan.

Air 21 president Lito Alvarez, who is also a member of the BAP executive board, echoed Tan's statements.

"If it's for the country, Mr. and Ms Bert Lina will always be ready to help," said Alvarez. "They have been involved in basketball for years, helping the development of the sport through the youth players, without asking for anything in return."

Cardona fires 33, lifts Harbour past Granny

GAMES TOMORROW (Pasig Sports Center)
2 p.m.—Nenaco-San Beda vs Bacchus Energy
4 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs Toyota Otis-Letran

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SCORELESS in the first quarter, but flawless in the fourth.

Mark Cardona showed why he's the country's hottest amateur cager when he bucked a miserable first quarter to unload 16 of his game-high 33 points in the fourth and key Harbour Centre's 92-86 victory over Granny Goose yesterday in the PBL Unity Cup at the Pasig Sports Center.

The 6-foot-2 guard accounted for the Port Masters' final eight points, mocking defenses thrown at him by flicking in his inimitable hook shots for their sixth victory in eight games. Harbour Centre also lined itself up for one of the two outright berths in the semis.

The Port Masters only have to win their remaining three games to avail of the automatic semis slot.

Dubbed as "Captain Hook" when he was playing for La Salle in the UAAP, Cardona delighted the crowd and tormented the Snack Masters with an impressive 9-of-17 shooting from the field. Cardona, now on his final PBL conference as he is set to join the pro ranks in August, was also 16-of-18 from the charity stripe.

Cardona also grabbed nine rebounds and had an assist and a steal in 31 minutes of action, figures that could eventually earn him his first MVP plum in the league.

"Mark is unbelievable, despite being held scoreless in the first quarter, he still persevered. Well, that's the mark of a great player," said Harbour coach Toničhi Yturri. "But I have to thank LA (Tenorio) and the rest of the team for contributing for our big win."

Tenorio contributed 21 points aside from brilliantly orchestrating the plays, while Magnum Membrere had 10 points as Harbour dealt Granny its fifth loss in eight outings.

In the second game, Eric de la Cuesta banged in 15 points, including a three pointer in the final two minutes, as Montana Pawnshop defeated defending champion Magnolia Ice Cream, 76-61, and took the solo lead.

The 6-foot-1 guard, who was part of the 14-man team recommended by the league for inclusion in the RP Five lineup, shot 4-of-7 from the three-point range and teamed up with big guy Jon Dan Salvador, who also made 15 points.

The win put the Jewel alone at the top with a 7-1 record, while the Wizards tumbled to their fifth loss against three victories.

The scores:

HARBOUR 92—Cardona 33, Tenorio21, Membrere 10, Espinas 8, Mesina 6, Mendoza 6, Bugia 3, Gaco 2, Dizon 2, Buenafe 1, Sanz 0.

GRANNY GOOSE 86—Quinahan 20, Concha 13, Grijaldo 10, Almeda 9, Saladaga 8, Ibanez 6, Santos 6, Ferrer 5, Latonio 2, Alfad 0, Cruz 0, Guerrero 0.

Quarters: 19-23, 44-41, 66-66, 92-86.

MAC Cardona of Harbour Centre gets trapped by Granny Goose's triple-teaming defense in their PBL game yesterday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Pacquiao forges ₱15-million endorsement deal with Tan

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

EVEN when not fighting, money keeps coming for Manny Pacquiao.

The Filipino boxing icon became P15 million richer on Tuesday after striking an endorsement deal with business tycoon Lucio Tan.

Under the agreement, Pacquiao will be paid P5 million each for the three products he will endorse—Absolut Mineral Water, Tanduay and another product called Virgin.

In addition, the Ring Magazine featherweight king is slated to shoot two movies in the next few days.

Pacquiao appeared in a Surf commercial only last month.

Pacquiao bared that a fight in this city is being planned by promoter Rex "Wakee" Salud, especially if an out-of-court settlement with promoter Murad Muhammad whom he has sued for $33 million in a US court fails.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao finally met yesterday with MannyPacquiao.ph website owner Dong Secuya at the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel in Lahug and heaped praises on the Cebuano web designer who has chronicled Pacquiao's on-and-off the ring activities.

The General Santos City lefty is here upon the invitation of Salud, who is also the organizer of the 5-cock Mantawi Festival Derby where Pacquiao has fielded entries using his "Pacman" roosters.

Pacquiao also announced that he will play host to the Manny Pacquiao Golf Cup on July 27 désigned to raising funds for his foundation and also to 10 Filipino boxers of his choice.

Filipino tracksters snare 3 silvers

TEAM Philippines boosted its stock at the Thailand Track and Field Open in Bangkok Wednesday, winning three silver medals and a bronze in five events and benefiting from an early encounter with would-be competitors in the Southeast Asian Games late this year.

Mercedita Manipol came in second in the grueling 10,000-meter run with a 37:56.46 behind Indonesia's Triyavigalh who submitted a 37:27.73 in a race that identified the forces to reckon with come the SEA Games in November.

Rene Herrera collected his second silver from the 3000-meter steeplechase (9:05.81) yielding to the same man that beat him in the 1,500-meter contest, Chinese Taipei's Wen-Chien Wu (8:47.14) and Ernie Candelario closed out another productive run by the Filipinos with a runner-up finish (47.55) behind South Korea's Sung Kwom Cho (47.17) in the 400-meter event.

The day's output of the team bankrolled by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) brought the gold-silver-bronze tally of the country to 1-5-1, a solid performance in the total of nine events where Filipinos participated.

What adds to the elation of the track and field association is the expected arrival early next week of the newly acquired Southeast Asian Games training equipment from Europe, which were secured from the funds provided by the sport's godfather San Miguel Corp. (Magnolia Milk).

Patafa president Go Teng Kok said representatives of SMC, Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee, are set to jointly inspect these equipment.

From May 19-23 another Philippine squad will participate in the Taiwan Open, the second leg of five international stints lined up for them.

What went wrong?

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

SOMETHING'S seriously wrong in the Red Bull campaign in the Philippine Basketball Association. After their latest defeat in the PBA Fiesta Conference to Talk 'N Text last Wednesday, Barako coach Yeng Guiao said that among other factors, their import, 6-foot-9 Dalron Johnson, did not dish out an impressive performance.

"He was simply outplayed by TNT's Jerald Honeycutt," said Guiao in a phone interview. "But he stays with us in the meantime. It's sad to see a guy like Dalron leave. He's done so much for the team. However, we also need someone who can do better and, right now, we're looking for that someone. *Naghahanap pa.*"

To make matters worse, defense, once Red Bull's greatest strengths, is also sorely lacking. The Barako's have been hurt badly by the departure of high-impact players Davonn Harp and Mick Pennisi. Luckily for coach Yeng Guiao, the nucleus of the team is still there. Still, in my view, Rico Villanueva, Lordy Tugade, Cyrus Baguio and Junthy Valenzuela can't do it alone. Even Jimwell Torion's once celebrated high-flying performance has plummeted.

On the other hand, Vergel Meneses, Nelson Asaytono, Jerome Ejercito, Topex Robinson and the seldom-used EJ Feihl have been inconsistent in their most recent games while new recruit Warren Ybañez is, at best, a fairly efficient point guard.

In 2001-2002 the Barakos were winners because of a flashy offense and a hard-nosed defense. But the Barakos are finding the sailing rough this season, struggling with a lowly 5-7 win-loss record much to the frustration of their loyal fans.

Coach Yeng Guiao has a lot of work ahead of him.

By the way, Guiao will e one of the men behind the forthcoming Red Bull basketball camp at the RFM gym. Set from May 14 to 29, the first ever Red Bull camp is unique in the sense that the emphasis will be on quality over quantity. The camp organizers said they would limit the number of participants to only 40 or a ratio of only four enrollees per coach. The camp will be held in cooperation with ACCEL.

"It's actually more of a personal camp because only a limited number of participants will be accepted unlike other basketball camps whose enrollees usually run up to the thousands," said Red Bull assistant team manager Jay Lianos Dee.

Aside from Guiao, also conducting the two-week long basketball camp are Gee Abanilla, Roehl Nadurata, Rudy Hines and American physical conditioner Nathaniel Edward Addison Jr.

The camp is open to all, said Red Bull team manager Tony Chua adding that the Photokina franchise is launching this summer camp as its way of reaching out to the basketball-loving Filipinos. For more details, interested parties may call 3711688.

* * *

Who'll win FG Silver Cup? A down-the-wire race awaits horse racing fans during the 10th running of the PCSO First Gentleman Silver Cup stakes race this Sunday afternoon, May 8, at the Santa Ana Park. One of the year's most keenly-awaited racing events, nominated entries for the lung-busting 2,050-meter classic are 2004 Horse of the Year Empire King, arch rival West Bound and coupled entry Cover Girl, former Presidential Gold Cup winner Free Wind and unpredictable Don Paolo and Paramount.

Considered by racing aficionados as heir apparent to super horse Wind Blown owned by sportsman-businessman Hermie Edguerra, multi-titled Empire King (Perfect Halo-Carta Nueve by El Gran Señor) looms as the early betting favorite to win this Sunday's event which offers a fat paycheck of P1.1 million to the champion.

Empire King, a four-year-old colt from the Lee Stable, won one of his biggest and most dramatic victories in the Presidential Gold Cup last December when he beat West Bound in a photo finish at the rain-soaked Santa Ana Park. He also won the Marho Breeders' Cup Colt Mile held just weeks earlier and topped in June and July the Jaime Ongpin and Horseman's Cup of the Philracom-sponsored Triple Crown races.

"*Nasa Kundisyon* (He's in top condition), said Empire King jockey Jeff Ladiana, after that hairline win over West Bound in the PGC race. Empire King covered the punishing 2,050-meter distance in 2:12.6, slower than his 2:09.8 clocking when he won the Horseman's Cup.

Empire King belongs to a family of stakes winners. He is a full brother to the famous Baccarat and a half brother to many-time sprint champion Ariba King. This inbreeding, said my esteemed friend and TV executive Jake Maderazo, has given Empire King speed, endurance and versatility on the race track, making him a worthy successor to the great Wind Blown.

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Schedule of Events
- Wedding Fair MAY 04 to 17, 2005 • Cinema Lobby
Robinsons Movieworld BACOLOD & ILOILO
- Most Memorable Wedding Photo Contest MAY 04 to 17, 2005
Exhibit at the Cinema Lobby - Robinsons Movieworld BACOLOD & ILOILO
- Wedding Date Dating Game Show MAY 07 (Saturday)
Fountain Area - Robinsons Place BAÇOLOD
- The Wedding Date Special Advance Screening
MAY 09 (Monday) Robinsons Movieworld BACOLOD
MAY 10 (Tuesday) Robinsons Movieworld ILOILO
- Judging of Photo Contest - Cinema Lobby • 7:00 PM
- Special Advance Screening - Cinema 1 • 7:30 PM

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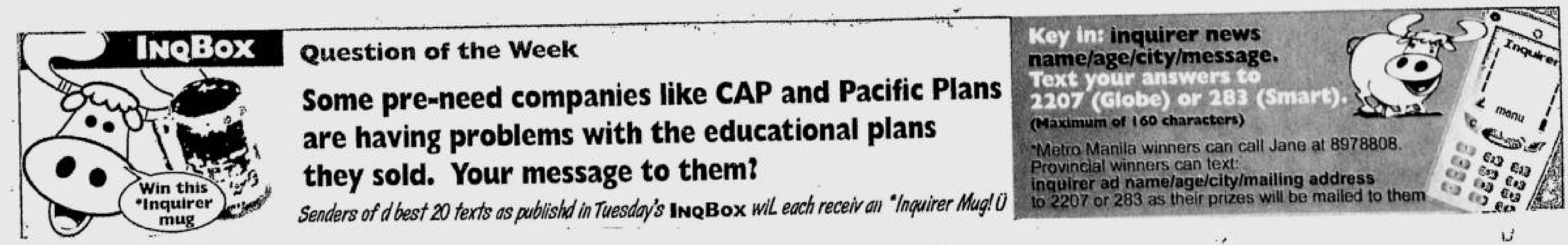


INQBOX
Question of the Week
Some pre-need companies like CAP and Pacific Plans are having problems with the educational plans they sold. Your message to them?
Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's INQBOX *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Mug!*
Key in: inquirer news name/age/city/message.
Text your answers to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart).
(Maximum of 160 characters)
*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808.
Provincial winners can text:
inquirer ad name/age/city/mailing address
to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

Mikola logs fastest time in practice

GUANGDONG, China—Indonesian driver Ananda Mikola sent feelers of his bid to build a good streak that would lead to a possible sweep of the Asian Formula 3 Grand Prix this early when he logged the fastest time after three practice rounds at the Zhuhai International Circuit on Thursday.

Mikola, racing for Fastron Racing with Threebond and winner of the first two laps held at the Batangas Racing Circuit last month, was the only driver to log one minute and 34.9 minutes in three unofficial practice runs in this Formula 1 track built in 1997.

Mikola, however, said he expects an even bigger challenge to come from defending champion Christian Jones of Australia and Philippine bets Tyson Sy and Dado Pena, calling his bid "more difficult" than his triumphs in Batangas.

Sy, driving for Speedtech Asia, logged a conservative one minute and 35.8 seconds, equaled later on by Jones, making them the most serious rivals yet for Mikola, who gets excellent support from the crew that helped won the Japanese Formula 3 last year.

Peña grabs TM League top spot

JHAROME Peña of Team Makati overtook Team Cavite's Toni Anne Nobleza in the TM (Taco Master)Kid standings following his strong second consecutive outing recently in the TM 9-Ball Champions League at the SM Supermall in Bicutan.

Peña now has 79 cumulative points while Nobleza, who held 16 players at bay in the first two weeks of competition but had a poor third week in a loss to Pena's Makati Team, slid to third place with 67 points.

Occupying Second in the TM Taco Master standings is Nobleza's teammate Jundel Mazon with 75 points in this tournament sponsored by Touch Mobile and supported by Brunswick, Accel and SM Supermalls.

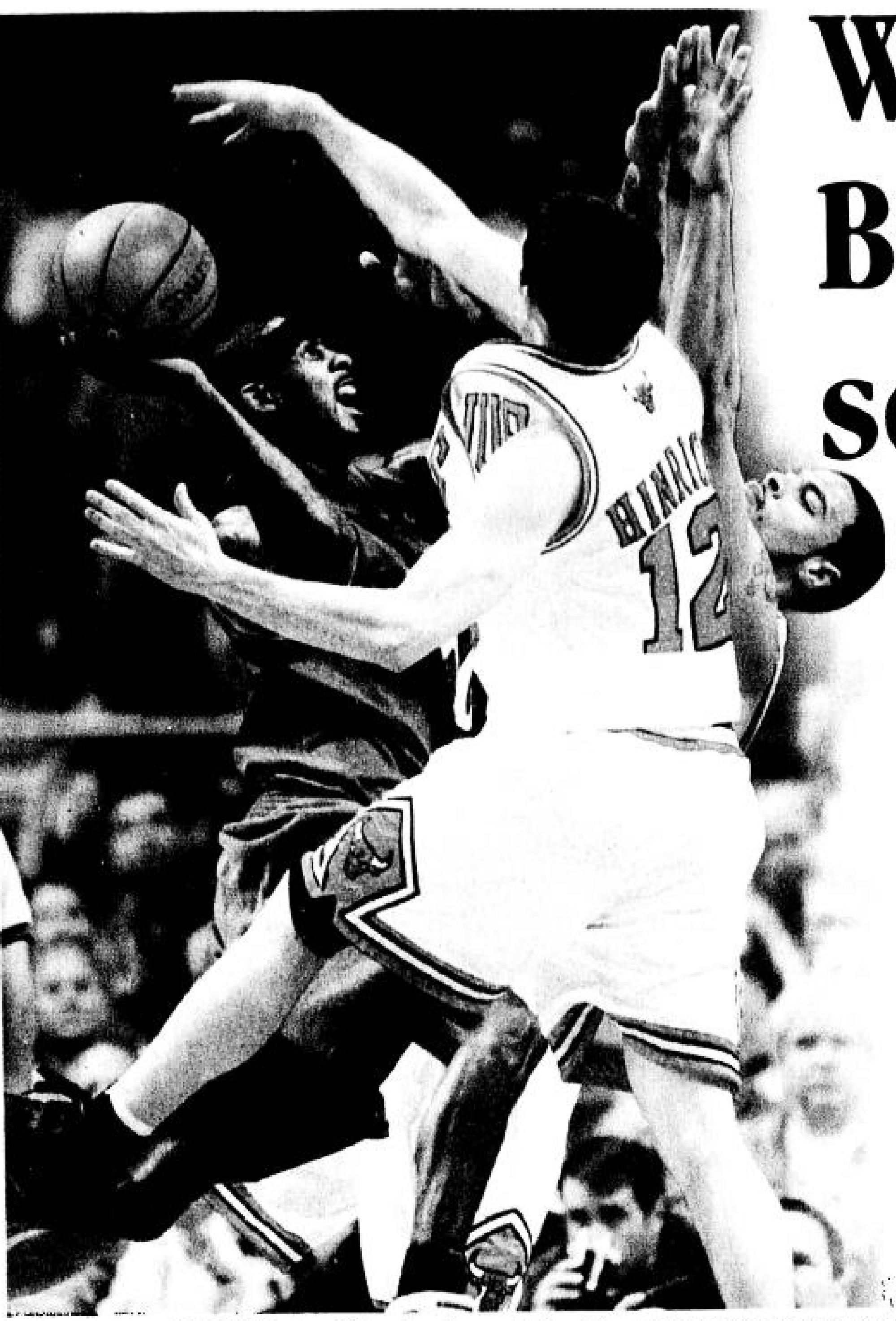
Peña's Makati team bested Team Cavite, 6-4, to sit at second place with a second straight triumph behind Team MayniLA.

Bicol jamboree

MOTORCYCLE Philippines Federation (MCPF), the country's largest umbrella organization for motorcycles, will hold the Bicol Jamboree starting today with over 2,000 riders expected to join. Rep. Mikey Arroyo (2nd Dist. Pampanga) will attend the event. Should projected participation be realized, the Bicol Jamboree will be the biggest ever held in the country.

The formation of MCPF is timely, since local sales of green-plate motorcycles have grown phenomenally.

For more information about MCPF and the Bicol Jamboree, visit http:motorcyclephilippines.com, or email mcpf@motorcyclephilippines.com, or call 854- 7549 to 50.



LARRY Hughes of the Washington Wizards puts up a shot on his way to 33 points against Kirk Hinrich (C) and Tyson Chandler of the Chicago Bulls in Game five of the Eastern Conference Quarterfinals. AFP

Wizards nip Bulls, wrest series lead

CHICAGO—Gilbert Arenas hit a 4.5 meter (14-foot) jump shot at the buzzer to foil a remarkable comeback by the Chicago Bulls and give Washington a 112-110 victory Wednesday that pushed the Wizards within one victory of their first playoff series win in 23 years.

"I knew I was going to make it. I shoot those shots every day," Arenas said. "You dream about it when you are growing up and when you get that chance, you don't want to blow it."

Washington leads the first-round best-of-seven series, 3-2, with Game 6 at the MCI Center on Friday.

Chicago's Jannero Pargo hit a 3-pointer, his third of the fourth quarter, to tie the game with 5.2 seconds remaining as the Bulls fought back from a 22-point, second-half deficit.

But after a timeout, Arenas took the ball out front, moved left with Kirk Hinrich guarding him and hit one of the biggest shots of his career.

"I was just trying to play him the best I could. I knew he would shoot the ball," Hinrich said. "I tried to challenge it without fouling, hoping he'd miss and we'd go to overtime. It was a tough shot. If I had to do it over again, I would not let him go left. It's just heartbreak. ... It's a dagger."

Larry Hughes scored a career playoff-high 33 points for the Wizards, who had a 10-point lead with 41 seconds to go.

A pair of 3-pointers by Pargo and another by Hinrich with 11.6 seconds left cut the lead to 109-107.

Ben Gordon scored 27, Hinrich 23 and Tyson Chandler 22 with 10 rebounds for the Bulls, making their first playoff appearance since Michael Jordan won the last of his six titles.

Spurs 99, Nuggets 89

In San Antonio, Tony Parker scored 21 points, Tim Duncan had 18 points and 11 rebounds, and San Antonio eliminated Denver.

After dropping the first game in the series, the Spurs won four in a row and now moves in the Western Conference playoffs.

San Antonio, which has lost only four times on its home court this season, moves on to a second-round matchup with Seattle.

Manu Ginobili added 18 points and Robert Horry scored 17, including two 3-pointers for the Spurs. *AP*

Sharapova breezes past German teener

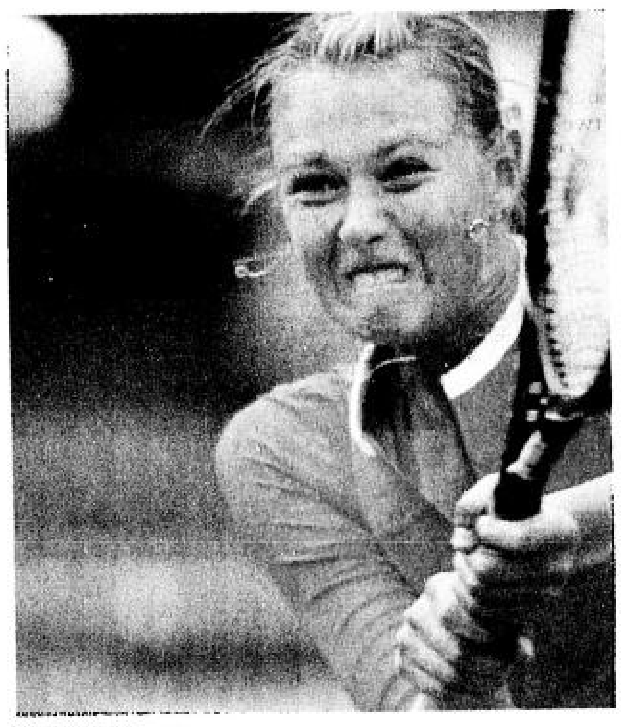
BERLIN—Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova looked quick and confident on Wednesday as she breezed past German 19-year-old Anna-Lena Groenefeld 6-2 6-2 to win a third round place in the German Open claycourt tournament.

Sharapova, who is the top seed in Berlin and will become world number one if she wins, took control from the start, pushing early to the net for winning returns.

"It was a good starting performance," Sharapova said of her first clay match of the season ahead of the French Open at the end of the month.

"It would be pretty amazing to be number one but I am not putting any additional pressure on myself," she added.

The Russian 18-year-old wants to fine-tune her game for the slower clay surface. "I have to adjust, relax and be more patient," she said. "I realise I have to be out there for a longer time." Earlier on Wednesday, French Open champion Anastasia Myskina became the highest seeded casualty, losing 6-2 1-6 6-4 to German wildcard Julia Schruff. *Reuters*



SHARAPOVA returns the ball to Groenefeld. AFP

Spanish qualifier stuns Safin

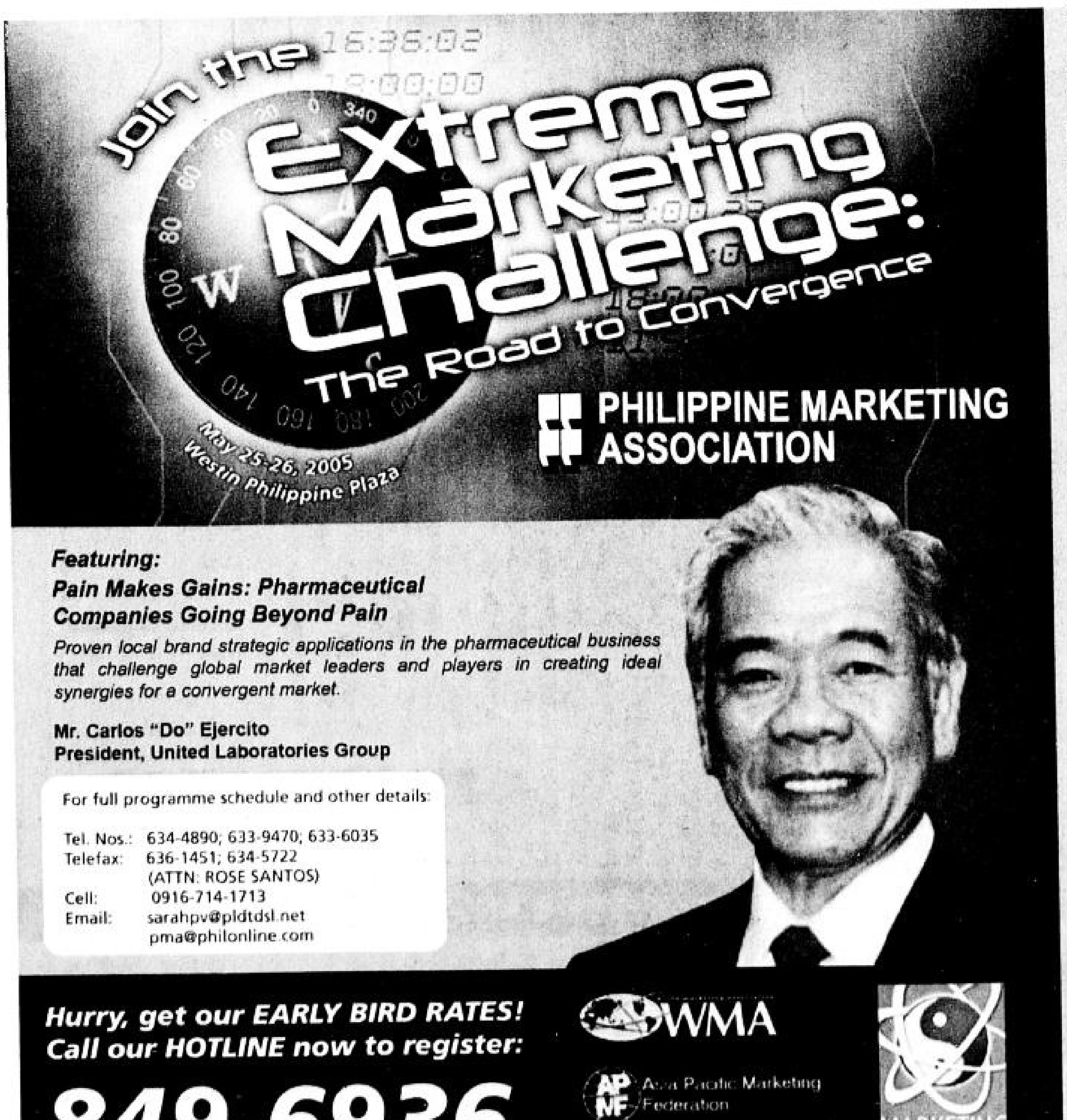
ROME—Spanish qualifier Nicolas Almagro upset Australian Open champion Marat Safin 6-4, 6-3 Wednesday in the second round of the Rome Masters.

The 19-year-old Almagro matched the Russian's heavy groundstrokes in long baseline rallies and chased down Safin's drop shots throughout the match.

Safin also struggled in the first round before beating Jiri Novak in three sets.

The 101st-ranked Almagro, who had never won a Masters Series match until he beat Igor Andreev in the first round, broke Safin's serve to win the first set and then converted three more breaks in the second.

Safin is now 14-6 this season and 3-3 on clay. He has never made it past the third round in Rome. *AP*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Session Chair: **Dr. Nick C. Fontanilla**
President, The Asia Pacific Center for Research
Session One:
A Business Philosophy for Extreme Marketing: Pushing Your Limits in a Crisis Economy

Speaker: **Bienvenido Policarpio**
Executive Vice President, Prudential Group of Companies
President, Dale Carnegie Philippines

Session Two:
Customer Relationship Management: Building Technology to the Extreme

Speaker: **Mr. Mark Yambot**
Director for Corporate Affairs, Microsoft Philippines, Inc.

Session Three:
Pain Makes Gains: Pharmaceutical Companies Going Beyond Pain

Speaker: **Mr. Carlos "Do" Ejercito**
President, United Laboratories Group

Session Four:
The New Empire: Shaping the Future of High-Rise Condominiums

Speaker: **Mr. Luke Tan**
Director, Investor Relation, Megaworld

Session Five:
Challenging Global Brands through Sports Marketing Events

Speaker: **Mr. Christophe Bezu**
Senior Vice President, Adidas-Salomon AG, Hong Kong

Day 2 : May 26, 2005
Session Chair: **Dr. Karen De Asis**
Marketing Consultant
Marketing Director, La Salle Graduate School

Session Six:
Mega Formulas for Extreme Marketing from a Marketing Guru

Speaker: **Mr. Hermawan Kartajaya**
President & Leading Service Officer, MarkPlus&Co.

Session Seven:
The Telecommunications Industry Revealed: Telecommunications Convergence: Challenge to the Extreme!

Speaker: to be announced

Session Eight:
The New Imperative in Today's Convergence in Marketing: Sustainable Growth

Speaker: **Mr. Gavin Coombes**
Vice President, Euro RSCG Asia Pacific

Session Nine:
Mall Mania: Shop Until You Drop!

Speaker: **Ms. Grace F. Magno**
Head of Marketing, Araneta Group of Companies

Session Ten:
New Rules in Market Leadership: Success Stories in Non-traditional Bank Marketing

Speaker: **Mr. Tomas Victor Mendoza**
SAVP, Banco de Oro Universal Bank

Session Eleven:
Creativity on the Edge: Media & Marketing Convergence

Speaker: **Nicanor C. Gabunada**
Senior Vice President for Integrated Sales & Marketing, ABS-CBN Broadcasting Company

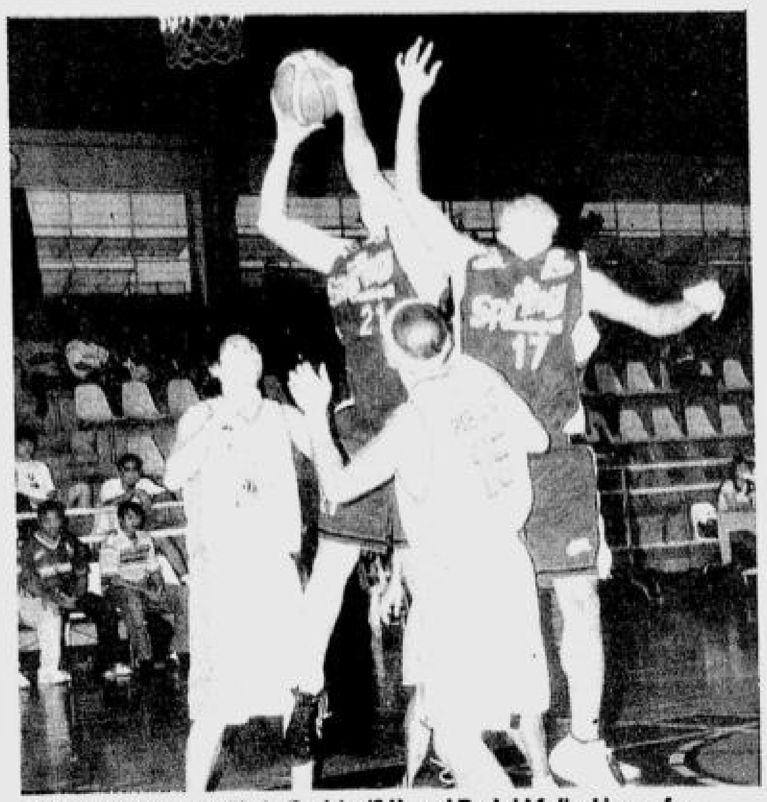
Session Twelve:
Advertising Convergence: Bringing Filipino Consumers Closer to the Brand through Humor

Speaker: **Mr. Joselito B. Ortega**
Chairman & CEO, BrandLab, Inc.

Closing Session:
The Road to Recovery through Market Convergence

Speaker: **Mr. Jose Jesus F. Roces**
Professor, Asian Institute of Management (AIM)
President, Asia Pacific Marketing Federation (APMF)

** Speaker for confirmation*



LAGUNA Spring's Chris Corbin (21) and Rodel Mallari jump for possession while Taguig's Leo Vilar (21) and Jimboy Robillos look on.

RP jr netters advance

THE PHILIPPINES banked on the tandem of Kyle Joshua Dandan and Ralph Kevin Barte to beat Chinese Taipei, 2-1, yesterday and advance to the World Junior Championships in Barcelona.

Dandan and Barte, who started playing together only last year, saved the day for the Filipinos after posting a 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Hsu-Chun Huang and Hsien-Yin Peng in the doubles of the Junior Davis Cup Asia-Oceania qualifying zone at the Manila Polo Club covered courts.

Dandan, who is set to leave for Europe in two weeks' time, kept the Philippines' hope alive when he prevailed over Hsien-Yin Peng, 6-2, 6-3, as Barte, a prized find from Davao City, bowed to Hsu-Chun Huang, 1-6, 2-6, in the opening singles.

"I'm very excited and happy with the performance of the boys. I wish them good luck," said Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) and Philippine Tennis Association (Philta) president Col. Salvador Andrada.

Former RP Davis Cupper Raymond Suarez, chair of the Manila Polo Club tennis committee, was elated.

"I'm glad that we hosted the event. All the members are supportive," Suarez said.

"We really tried our best to win this for the country," said the 15-year-old Dandan, the only Filipino invited by the International Tennis Federation Under 16 team that will play in Europe starting on May 23.

The Philippines, which swept the elimination round, shoots for a final berth at 10 a.m. today against Australia, the top seed in this week-long event presented by BNP Paribas and supported by Wilson balls and Astoria Plaza Hotel.

Australia, which, along with Thailand and Japan, also advanced in the World Championship set in September, demolished Sri Lanka, 3-0, with victories coming from Joel Linder over Chavi Talagala, 6-2, 6-2, Stephen Donald over Rukmal Cooray, 6-0, 6-2, and Patrick Nicholls and Donald over Talagala and Cooray, 6-1, 6-1.

Second seed Japan downed sixth seed India, 3-0. Fumiaki Kita defeated Agnel Gladwin Peter, 6-2, 6-4, Kei Nishkori beat Kinshuk Sharma, 6-1, 6-4, and Kita and Nishkori blasted Navneetha Kannan Baskaran and Sharma, 6-0, 6-0.

Third-ranked Thailand prevailed over China, 2-0.

DANDAN: Rising Filipino star AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Taguig nips Spring; Ozamiz wins anew

TAGUIG—Defending north conference champion Forward Taguig edged Spring Cooking Oil-backed Laguna Spring, 87-86, Wednesday to start its campaign in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship on a bright note at the packed C.P. Tinga gym here.

Leo Vilar and Jimmy Boy Robillos produced the key points for Mayor Freddie Tinga's Taguig cagers, who dealt the Spring of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro their second straight heartbreaking setback.

Two weeks ago, expansion team Parañaque nipped Spring, 68-67, on a triple by ex-Red Bull Barako Rollie Basilides in the last two seconds.

Over at the Gov. Angel Medina Sr. gym in Ozamiz City, the Ozamiz Cotta of Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog banked on the 31-point explosion of Melfred Sampilo to beat Mayor Lawrence Cruz's Iligan Crusaders, 97-84.

It was the second straight win for the Ozamiz cagers in the BAP-sanctioned tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Accel, Molten, Spring Cooking Oil, Sulpicio Lines, Cebu Pacific, Philtranco, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz Solutions Provider, Cebuana Lhuillier, Prime Channel, Ping Ping Lechon, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Playmaker Bob Cousy Ilagan also shone for Cotta with 10 points, 11 assists, eight rebounds and two steals.

Taguig and Laguna fought on even terms until the dying seconds, with Spring's Mar Reyes muffing a trey that could have sent the game into overtime.

"We really expected a close game," said Taguig coach Danny Gavieres. "We're just lucky we got the breaks in the endgame."

Decipeda-Ng rules Riviera Invitational

OSCAR Decipeda and guest partner Nelson Ng finished strong with 37 points on the Langer course to finish with 121 points and charge past Romeo Ignacio and Junie Fontanilla for the overall title in the seventh Riviera Invitational, the member-guest tournament of the Riviera Golf and Country Club.

Decipeda, president of Blackhole Enterprises, and Ng, the owner of Nelissa Farms, built on 84 net points after the first day of play and then played the tough one ball twosome format, making six birdies and five bogeys to add their names to the list of Invitational winners.

This year's event was sponsored by Smart Money, Mizuno, Asiana Airlines, Casino Filipino, BMG Solar, The Turf Company, Ford Alabang, Pioneer Insurance and Bobby Fariñas.

The first day of competition was played on the Couples course, where the net aggregate scores of the team count, while the second day of play was held at the Langer course using the foursomes format.

Edged out of the top prize with their 118 points total, Ignacio and Fontanilla settled for the Division B title while Emilio Alviar Jr. and Brixton Aw took the Division A crown with 114 points.

In Division C, Vic Ahorro and Manfred Guangko won the crown by countback over Sixto Valdez and Cyril Salamanque, while Teresa Arevalo teamed up with former jungolf standout Anya Tanpinco to capture the Ladies Division.

Riviera chair Cesar Jayme Jr. and club president Danilo Pizarro awarded the trophies and prizes to the winners. The next edition is tentatively set for April 27-30, 2006.

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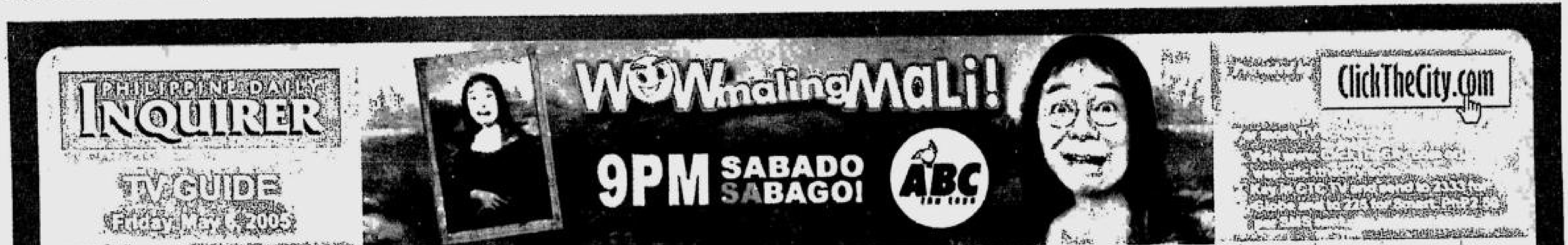

TV GUIDE
Friday May 6, 2005

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Showbiz No. 1 (4:25 PM)	Yu-Gi-Oh! (6:10 PM)	Naruto (5:35 PM)	Vidjoking	TV Patrol World		Kamao	Hiram	Spirits	Memories Of Bali	Stained Glass	TBA			Insider
ABC 5			Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	EZ Shop	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	TNA Impact		Billboard On-Air	
GMA 7		Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	One Piece	Knockout	Sorcerer Orphen	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Dama	Encantadia (8:45 PM)	All About Eve (9:15 PM)		Bubble Gang			Saksi
RPN 9	Metro TV Shopping			Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Scare Tactics	The Ring	Crime & Punishment		Sports Illustrated		Biggest Loser		Newswatch Now			
IBC 13		Lifestyle		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Lifestyle		Home Shopping Network		Asian X-Tour			The Regional Billiards		IBC News Tonite	Pulis Na Palaban	GMA The Working President
JackTV		WWE Velocity		Thunder Box		Rastol	Ozzy & Drix	Sweat	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Joe Schmo Show		Movies & WWE PPV Movie				Worst Case Scenario	
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	1, 2, 3	Nick Mix						Rugrats
MYX		Urban MYX		Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Take 5	My MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Mellow MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	Star MYX	Club MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		JKX	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Arrested Development	Significant Others	Joan Of Arcadia		Average Joe		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
Studio 23		Urban MYX	Rock MYX	Pop MYX	OPM MYX	Jimmy Neutron, Boy Genius	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	Justice League	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights		Playing It Straight		News Central	Oprah		Yes Dear
AXN		The Contender		Totally Outrageous		30 Seconds To Fame	30 Seconds To Fame	7 Days (Season III)		Alias (Season II)		WRC 2005: Rally XS	E Buzz	Record Setters					
Star World	Cops	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Ally McBeal		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	TNA Wrestling		Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape	Weird TV	Really Caught In The Act		Friends	Totally Outrageous Behavior Caught On Tape
CNN				Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport
National Geographic		Welcome To Mars		Asteroid! The Doomsday Rock		Mission: Mars		The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles With Dr. Brady Barr	Wow		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		The Dark Side Of Chimps/Welcome To Mars/Dawn Of The Maya		Zambezi Troop/Asteroid! The Doomsday Rock/Quest For Phoenicians	
Solar Sports					World Table Tennis C'ships SFinals						In This Corner		NBA TV Daily	NBA Playoffs First Round					GWS Ep.18-2005
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner	Unwrapped	Ming's Quest	Revealed With Jules Asner		It's Good To Be	Life & Style		Guess Who's Coming To Decorate			
HBO	Darkness Falls			Post Impact (3:55 PM)			A Mighty Wind (5:35 PM)			The Frighteners (7:10 PM)				Bad Boys				The Nutty Professor	
Star Movies				Last Samurai			Luck			The Real McCoy (7:10 PM)				The Hot Chick			Pit Fighter (10:45PM)		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Mucha Lucha!	Teen Titans	Toon Pick	Gundam Wing	Shaman King	Looney Tunes Show			Courage The Cowardly Dog	Time Squad	Thundercats	He-Man & The Masters Of The Universe	Gundam Seed
ESPN					Motorsport Asia	Winter X Games IX-Day2 Prt2 ML Aspen Co.USA			In The Driver's Seat	Goals!	Eng. Premier League Preview	Sportscenter Asia	2004 WPBA Cuetec Cues Florida Classic		Premier Snooker League '05				Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	The Sleepover Club	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	Buzz Lightyear Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	America's Funniest Home Video	According To Jim	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax			The Haunting of Seacliff Inn			Traveller (5.15 PM)				Simone				Money Talks			Cabin Fever (10.35PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		H.C.A. The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss	Bewitched	The District		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Life On Liberty Street			Wife Swap (10.35PM)	Crime Night	The District (11.25PM)
Discovery Channel		Power Zone				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Monster Garage		American Chopper		Wild Science		Ultimate Discovery			
Sports Plus						Raceworld		Italia Serie A				Porsche md.1 '05	Monster Jam	This Is The PGA Tour		Inside the PGA	Zurich Classic of New Orleans Highlights		Wachovia C'ship Day1
NBN	Value Vision	Value Vision		Value Vision	Teledyaryo	Value Vision		GSIS Member's Hour		Network Forum		Teledyaryo		9th Tinig Awards				Ugnayang Pambansa	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

The InqTV News Video SHOOTOUT

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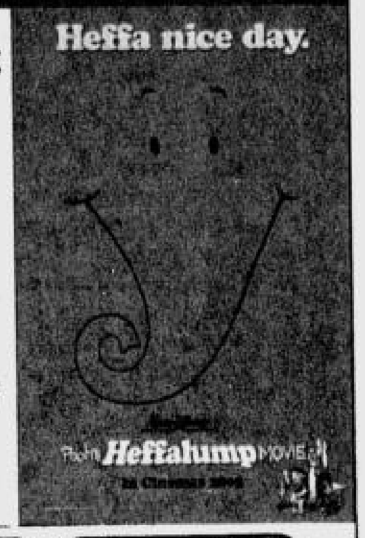
SM CINEMA **movietime**™

WINNIE THE POOH AND THE HUNDRED ACRE WOOD GANG ARE TOGETHER AGAIN IN
POOH'S HEFFALUMP MOVIE!
THIS TIME, THEY ARE IN SEARCH OF A LOAD-RUMBLING NOISE THAT COULD ONLY BE MADE BY HEFFALUMP - A " MUCH-FEARED NEW CREATION" THE WHOLE GANG DEEMED TO BE.

CATCH THIS CHARMING NEW ADVENTURE TODAY **EXCLUSIVELY** AT **SM MEGAMALL.**



FOR INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING, SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

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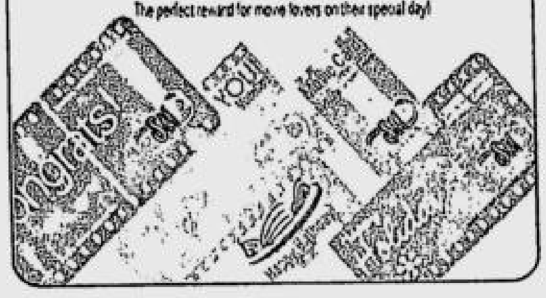

GUARANTEED SEATS

the podium cinema

1. **KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**
12:30 FS / 1:00 / 4:00 / 7:30
9:30 LFS / 10:00 LMF / 12:25 END
2. **POOH'S HEFFALUMP**
11:00 FS / 11:35 MF / 1:25 / 3:15 / 3:05 / 6:55
8:45 / 10:00 LFS / 10:35 LMF / 11:45 END

☎ 633-8976

sm megamall cinema 1

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11:30 FS / 12:00 MF / 3:00 / 6:00
8:30 LFS / 9:00 LMF / 11:25 END

☎ 633-1901

sm cebu cinema

CINEMA 1: xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
11:30 MF / 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30
9:10 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 11:10 END

CINEMA 3: KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11:00 MF / 1:30 / 4:15 / 6:55
9:25 LFS / 9:30 LMF / 12:00 END

☎ (032) 231-3876

METRO MANILA

sm megamall
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
3 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
4 THE INTERPRETER
5 SIX
6 THE WEDDING DATE
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED
9 RESERVED
10 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11 POOH HEFFALUMP MOVIE
12 CAN THIS BE LOVE

sm city sta. mesa
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED
6 THE WEDDING DATE
7 SAHARA
8 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
9 SIX
10 GUESS WHO

sm cinema tutuban
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

sm city fairview
1 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
2 SAHARA
3 GUESS WHO
4 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
5 CAN THIS BE LOVE
6 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
7 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
8 THE PACIFIER
9 SAMARA: RING 2
10 THE INTERPRETER
11 THE WEDDING DATE
12 SIX

sm city southmall
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 GUESS WHO
6 SAHARA
7 CAN THIS BE LOVE
8 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
9 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
10 SAMARA: RING 2

sm supercenter sucat
1 THE JACKET
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

sm city north edsa
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 RESERVED
4 SIX
5 THE WEDDING DATE
6 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
7 GUESS WHO
8 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

sm city manila
1 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2 SIX
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
5 FINDING NEVERLAND
6 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
7 GUESS WHO
8 THE INTERPRETER
9 CAN THIS BE LOVE
10 SAHARA
11 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
12 SAMARA: RING 2

sm city bicutan
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 THE INTERPRETER
4 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

LUZON

sm city pampanga
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
3 THE PACIFIER
4 THE INTERPRETER
5 SAHARA
6 CAN THIS BE LOVE

sm city marilao
1 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2 THE JACKET
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

sm city baguio
1 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 THE WEDDING DATE

sm city bacoor
1 SAMARA: RING 2
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
5 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
6 CAN THIS BE LOVE
7 THE INTERPRETER
8 SAHARA

sm city batangas
1 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 SAMARA: RING 2

sm city dasmariñas
1 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 THE INTERPRETER
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

sm city lucena
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

sm city cebu
1 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
2 RESERVED
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 THE WEDDING DATE
5 FINDING NEVERLAND
6 THE PACIFIER
7 SAHARA
8 CAN THIS BE LOVE

sm city iloilo
1 THE PACIFIER
2 RESERVED
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 THE JACKET
5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL
7 RESERVED
8 ONG BAK: THE THAI WARRIOR

sm city davao
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 BOOGEYMAN
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
5 THE WEDDING DATE
6 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

sm city cagayan de oro
1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 FINDING NEVERLAND
4 xXx 2: THE NEXT LEVEL

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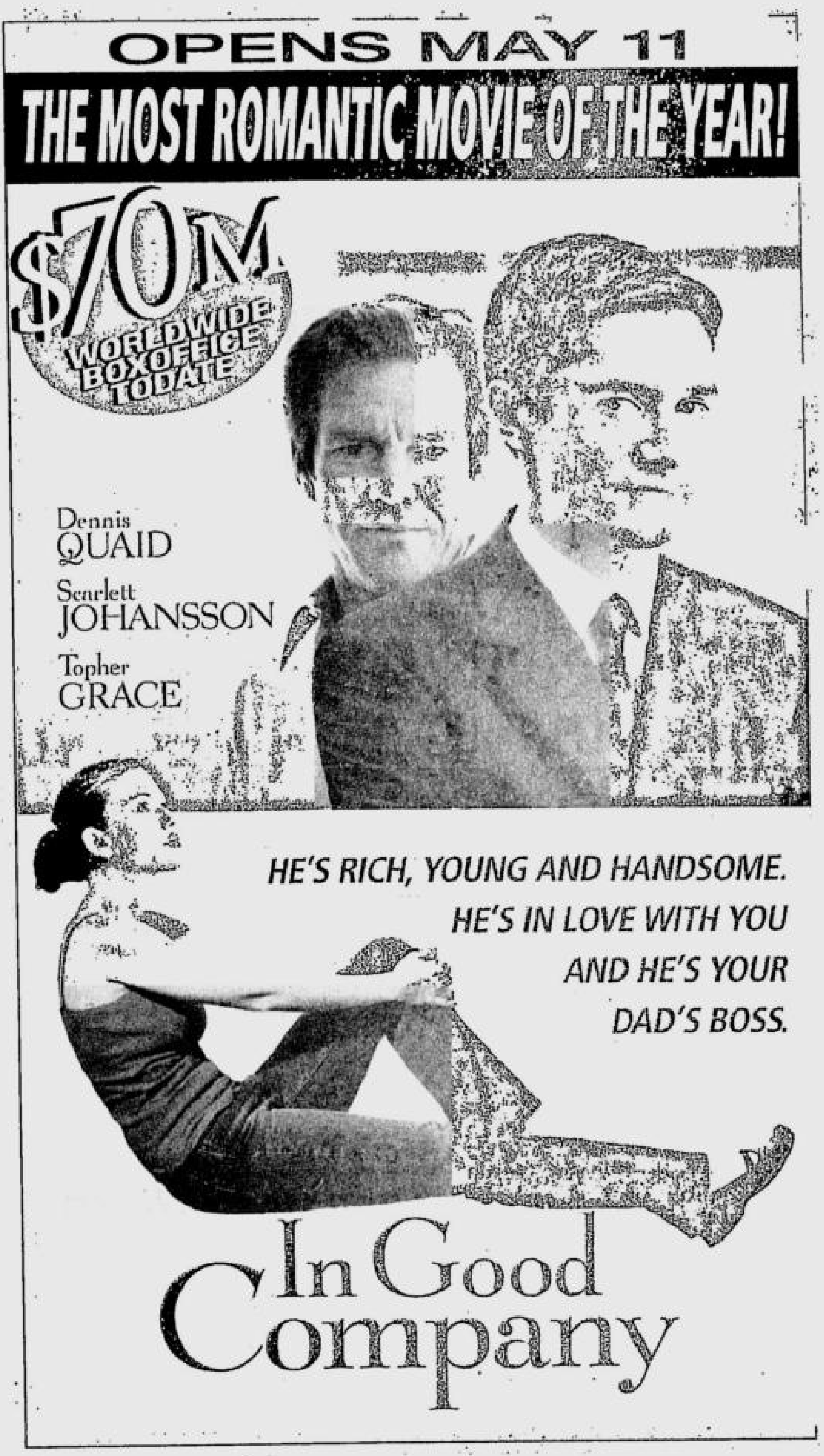


OPENS MAY 11

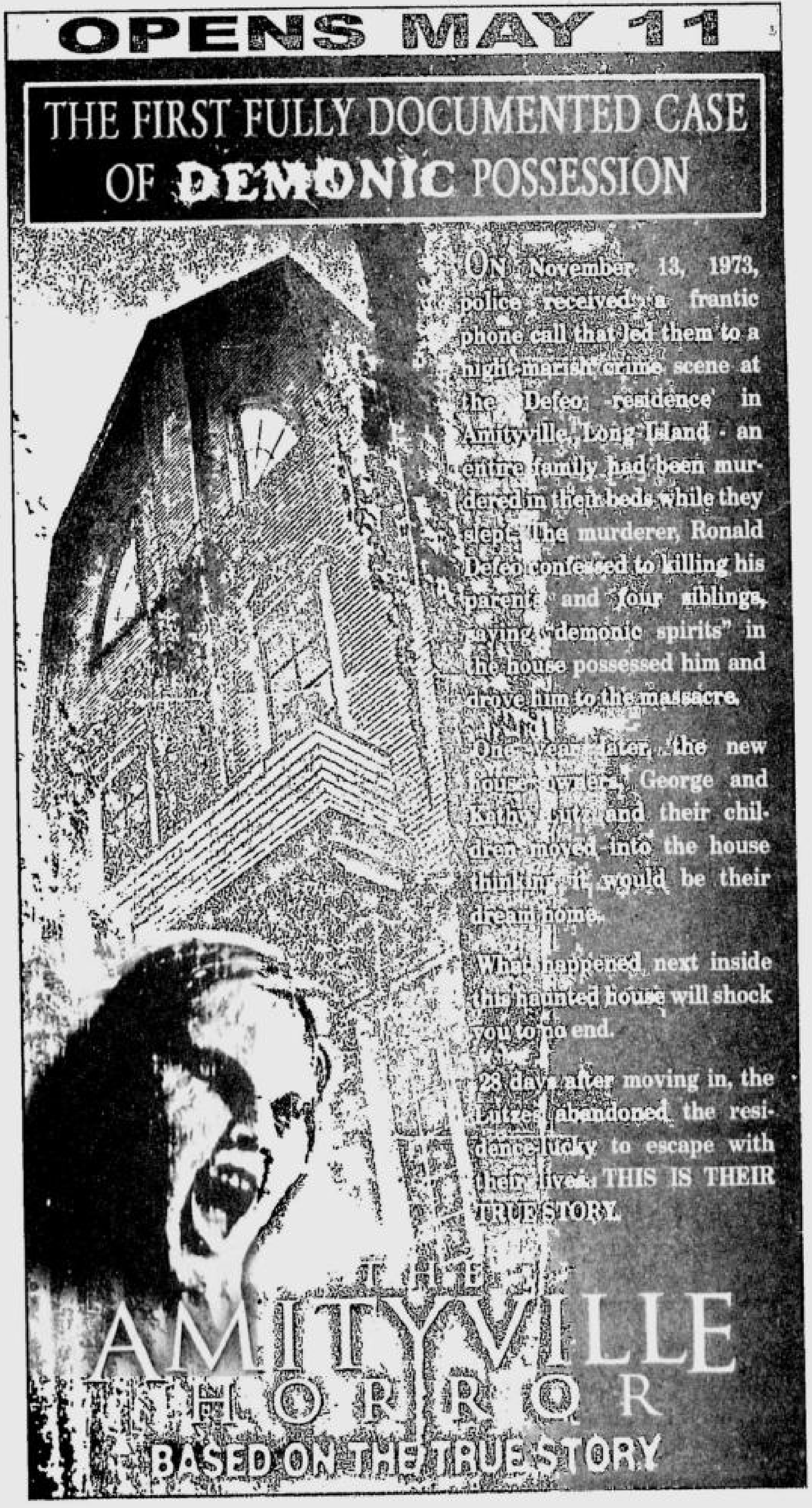
THE MOST ROMANTIC MOVIE OF THE YEAR!

$70M WORLDWIDE BOXOFFICE TODATE

Dennis QUAID
Scarlett JOHANSSON
Topher GRACE

HE'S RICH, YOUNG AND HANDSOME.
HE'S IN LOVE WITH YOU
AND HE'S YOUR
DAD'S BOSS.

In Good Company



OPENS MAY 11

THE FIRST FULLY DOCUMENTED CASE OF DEMONIC POSSESSION

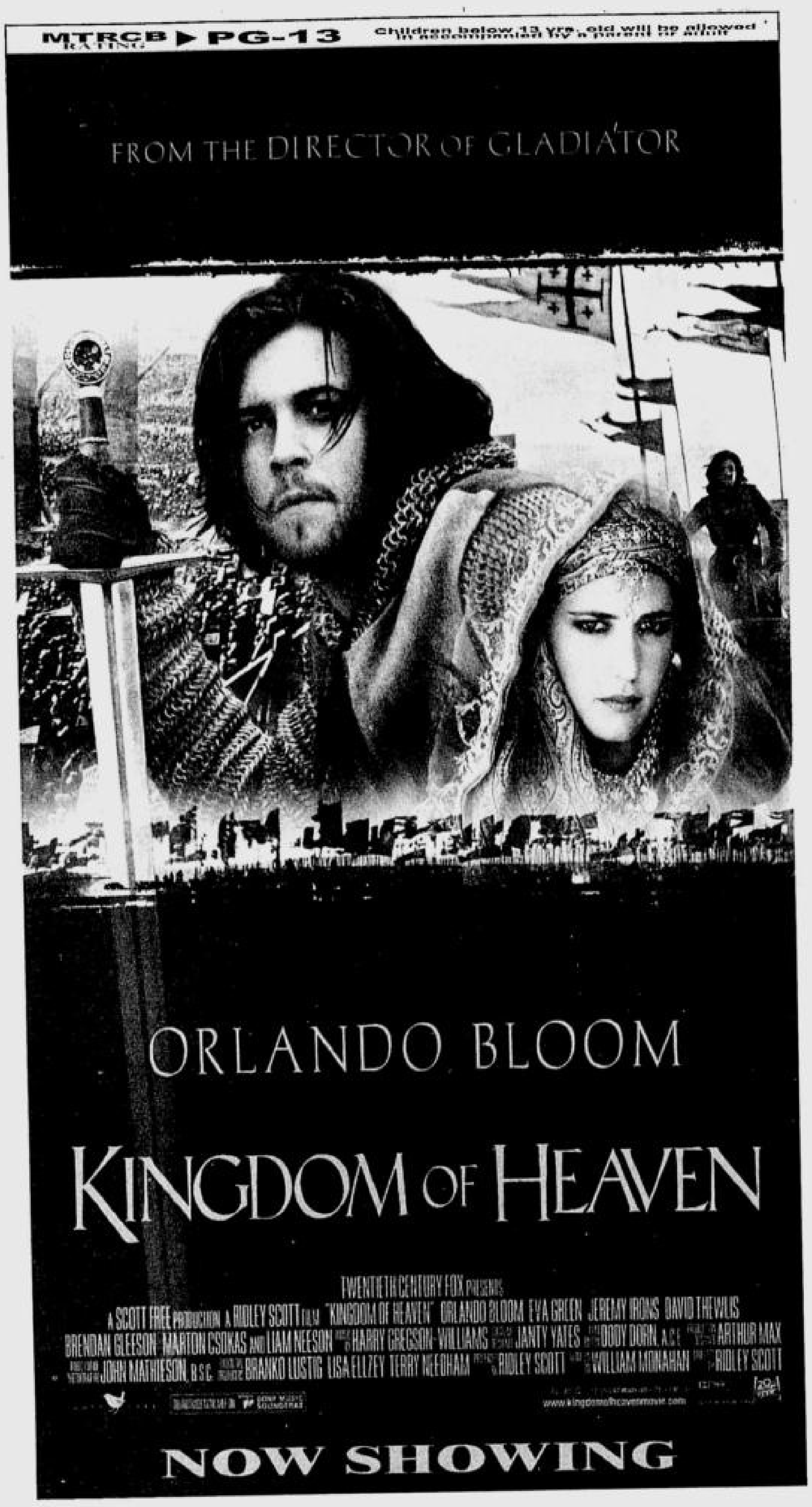
ON November 13, 1973, police received a frantic phone call that led them to a night-marish crime scene at the Defeo residence in Amityville, Long Island - an entire family had been murdered in their beds while they slept. The murderer, Ronald Defeo confessed to killing his parents and four siblings, saying "demonic spirits" in the house possessed him and drove him to the massacre.

One year later, the new house owners, George and Kathy Lutz and their children moved into the house thinking it would be their dream home.

What happened next inside this haunted house will shock you to no end.

28 days after moving in, the Lutzes abandoned the residence lucky to escape with their lives. THIS IS THEIR TRUE STORY.

THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
BASED ON THE TRUE STORY



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GLADIATOR

ORLANDO BLOOM

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX PRESENTS A SCOTT FREE PRODUCTION A RIDLEY SCOTT FILM "KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" ORLANDO BLOOM EVA GREEN JEREMY IRONS DAVID THEWLIS BRENDAN GLEESON MARTON CSOKAS AND LIAM NEESON MUSIC BY HARRY GREGSON-WILLIAMS COSTUME DESIGNER JANTY YATES EDITED BY DODY DORN, A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNER ARTHUR MAX DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN MATHIESON, B.S.C. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BRANKO LUSTIG LISA ELLZEY TERRY NEEDHAM PRODUCED BY RIDLEY SCOTT WRITTEN BY WILLIAM MONAHAN DIRECTED BY RIDLEY SCOTT

www.kingdomofheavenmovie.com

NOW SHOWING

Araneta Center Leisure Guide

The Gateway Pavilion

CINEMA SCHEDULES

Gateway Cineplex 10
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The Country's Largest Cinema
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DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

GUESS WHO 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30	**KINGDOM OF HEAVEN** 12:20 / 1:00 / 3:20 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 7:00 / 9:20 / 10:00
XXX 2: STATE OF THE UNION 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	**THE WEDDING DATE** 1:30 / 3:30 / 5:30 / 7:30 / 9:30
CAN THIS BE LOVE 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	**THE PACIFIER** 1:50 / 4:10 / 6:30 / 8:50
FINDING NEVERLAND 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00	**SAHARA** 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30
THE INTERPRETER 12:40 / 3:20 / 6:00 / 8:40	

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ **KINGDOM OF HEAVEN** 11:20 / 2:20 / 5:20 / 8:20	❹ **SIX** 11:50 / 2:05 / 4:20 / 6:35 / 8:50
❷ **CAN THIS BE LOVE** 11:45 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25	❺ **TAGOS SA LAMAN** 11:55 / 2:00 / 4:05 / 6:10 / 8:15
❸ **XXX 2: STATE OF THE UNION** 11:45 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

2005 PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE May 6
4:45pm Red Bull vs Shell / 7:35pm Talk N Text vs Coke

THE 'C' SHOW
May 21, Saturday, 8pm

KEVYN LETTAU: MEMORIES OF LOVE
May 14, Saturday, 8pm

ASHANTI LIVE IN MANILA
May 26, Thursday, 8pm

CENTER EVENTS

GATEWAY MALL	***The Saturday Group Art Exhibit*** *Featuring the combined works of the premier artists' group in the country including Mauro "Malang" Santos. May 2 to 15, Upper Ground Floor, Gateway Mall*
NEW STORES	***Fully Booked*** *(Level 2),* ***Time Zone*** *(Level 3),* ***Celio*** *(Ground Floor) &* ***Kashieca*** *(Level 3) at Gateway Mall*
PERFORMANCES	***Tropicana, John Lesaca & Buhay featuring Tots Tolentino*** *are set to perform on May 6, 7 & 8 at The Gateway Pavilion.*

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

DEBRA MESSING
DERMOT MULRONEY
The WEDDING DATE

[illegible]

MOVIEWORLD
The WEDDING DATE
VIVA

In cooperation with
BROADBAND · SAINT RAPHAEL DEVELOPMENT CORP · CEBU PACIFIC

Schedule of Events

- *Wedding Fair* MAY 04 to 17, 2005 • Cinema Lobby Robinsons Movieworld BACOLOD & ILOILO
- *Most Memorable Wedding Photo Contest* MAY 04 to 17, 2005 Exhibit at the Cinema Lobby - Robinsons Movieworld BACOLOD & ILOILO
- *Wedding Date Dating Game Show* MAY 07 (Saturday) Fountain Area - Robinsons Place BACOLOD
- *The Wedding Date Special Advance Screening*
  MAY 09 (Monday) Robinsons Movieworld BACOLOD
  MAY 10 (Tuesday) Robinsons Movieworld ILOILO
- *Judging of Photo Contest* - Cinema Lobby • 7:00 PM
- *Special Advance Screening* - Cinema 1 • 7:30 PM

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ADGROUP EVENTS Advertising and Promotions

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2227 / 6337851 loc. 171

1 (DOLBY) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN PG13
2 (DOLBY) XXX 2 PG13
3 (DOLBY) CLOSED
4 (DOLBY) CLOSED

PREMIERE
(DOLBY) GUESS WHO PG13

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 XXX - 2 THE NEXT LEVEL
2 RING OF THE NIBELUNG
3 CAN THIS BE LOVE
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 , 833.3274

1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) CAN THIS BE LOVE
5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

1 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
2 TAGOS SA LAMAN
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6 CAN THIS BE LOVE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Las Pinas) tel (047) 237.7007

1 (DOLBY) WAR EAGLE
2 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 (SDDS) XXX - 2 THE NEXT LEVEL
3 (DTS) THE INTERPRETER
4 GOLD (DTS) PACIFIER
5 GOLD (DOLBY) GUESS WHO
6 GOLD (SDDS) XXX - 2 THE NEXT LEVEL
7 GOLD (DOLBY) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
8 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
9 WEDDING DATE
10 CAN THIS BE LOVE

Araneta Center CINEMA GUIDE
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GUESS WHO
XXX: STATE OF THE UNION
CAN THIS BE LOVE
FINDING NEVERLAND
THE INTERPRETER
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
THE WEDDING DATE
THE PACIFIER
SAHARA

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 XXX: STATE OF THE UNION
4 SIX
5 TAGOS SA LAMAN

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
4 RESERVED

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DTS EX) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 SAHARA

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
3 (DOLBY) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 (DTS) SAHARA

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 WEDDING DATE
3 (DOLBY) SHAOLIN VS' EVILDEAD
4 (DTS) THE PACIFIER

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 ONG BAK

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) XXX 2
2 (DOLBY) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 (DOLBY) THE INTERPRETER
4 (DOLBY) GUESS WHO

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 SPONGEBOB
2 (DTS) CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 XXX - 2 THE NEXT LEVEL

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 CAN THIS BE LOVE
2 (DOLBY) XXX - 2 THE NEXT LEVEL
3 (DTS) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 SPONGEBOB

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY) PACIFIER

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 SAMARA (RING - 2)
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY) MILLION DOLLAR BABY
4 (DTS) PACIFIER

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DOLBY) XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) LAST ERUPTION
2 TAGOS SA LAMAN
3 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
4 (DTS) HOSTAGE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
2 CAN THIS BE LOVE
3 (DTS) KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 TAGOS SA LAMAN
5 SPONGEBOB

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1 SAHARA
2 ALONE IN THE DARK
3 (DTS) PACIFIER
4 (DOLBY) CAN THIS BE LOVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL
3 SAHARA
4 CAN THIS BE LOVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 SA PILING NG MGA BELYAS
2 XXX-2 THE NEXT LEVEL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

AYALA CENTER
GLORIETTA • GREENBELT

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

AYALA CENTER CEBU

AYALA MALLS
Lovemall!

ALOHA YO
Featuring music from Disney's Lilo & Stitch Island Favorites

AYALA CENTER	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU	TOWER RECORDS
April 21 & 22 6:30 pm April 23 & 24 11:30 am, 3pm & 6pm Glorietta Activity Center	April 29, 30 & May 1 3pm & 6pm Activity Center	May 6 to 8 11 am & 6pm Activity Center	Lovemall! www.ayalamalls.com.ph

Catch Lilo's summer musical show live at the Ayala Malls featuring Bea Binene as LILO, Chynna Ortaleza and Nadine Samonte as NANI, Dion Ignacio and Tyrone Perez as DAVID, Paul Salas as DANIEL. Plus the SOP boys - Emil and Yexel. Directed by Freddie Santos

At the Activity Center

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	AYALA CENTER CEBU
Sponge Cola & Sugarfree Live! May 5, 2005	Watch Kuh Ledesma Live! May 7, 2005	Aloha Yo! Lilo's Summer Adventure featuring music from Disney's Lilo N' Stitch Island Favorites Album with GMA Artists May 6-8, 2005

AYALA GREENBELT

Greenbelt Theatrical Nights :
Saturday Night Fever
May 6&7 ; 20&21, 2005

GREENBELT Onstage AYALA CENTER

The Hitmakers Back Again
w/ Rico J. Puno, Haji Alejandro & Marco Sison
May 13 (Friday) 8:00 PM
For inquiries, please call 891-5610

Ayala MUSEUM

Visit the New Ayala Museum located beside Greenbelt 4 along Makati Avenue.
For inquiries, please call 757-7117.

AYALA CINEMAS

AYALA CINEMAS — THX

Reserve your seats by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS GB4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 GUESS WHO	2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	3 XXX 2	4 CAN THIS BE LOVE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 SHATTERED GLASS	2 XXX 2	3 THX KINGDOM OF HEAVEN GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE WEDDING DATE	5 GUESS WHO	6 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	7 CAN THIS BE LOVE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 XXX 2	2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SHATTERED GLASS GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX KINGDOM OF HEAVEN GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 THE INTERPRETER GUARANTEED SEATS	4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN GUARANTEED SEATS	5 XXX 2 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	2 XXX 2		
	3 CAN THIS BE LOVE	4 THE INTERPRETER	5 GUESS WHO	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN	2 XXX 2	3 THE WEDDING DATE	4 THE CURSE

12 DAYS TO GO

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EPISODE III
REVENGE OF THE SITH
OPENS MAY 18

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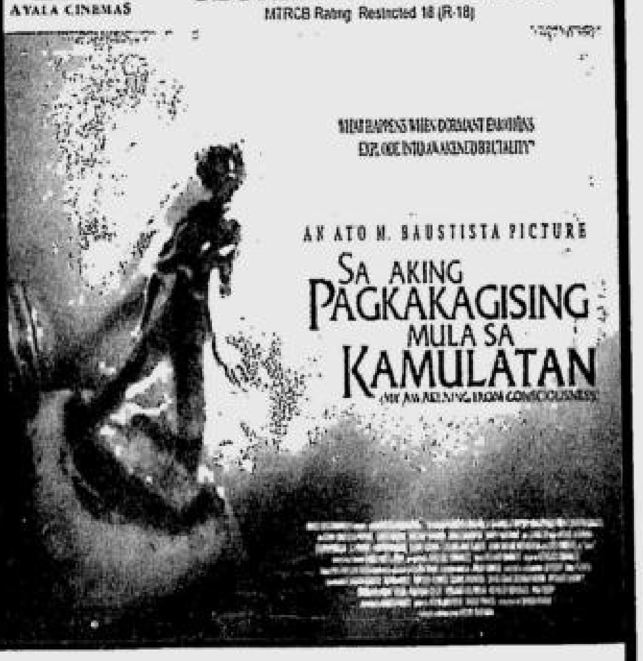

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1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN • THX
12:45 3:40 6:35 9:30

2 XXX 2
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 THE INTERPRETER
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

4 SIX
10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:25 1:20 4:15 7:10 10:00

6 THE WEDDING DATE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

7 SAHARA
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

8 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

9 THE PACIFIER
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

10 GUESS WHO?
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:10 12:55 3:40 6:25 9:20

2 THE INTERPRETER
10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

3 XXX 2
11:05 1:15 3:25 5:35 7:45 10:00

4 THE WEDDING DATE
10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 7:55 10:00

5 GUESS WHO?
10:20 12:15 2:10 4:05 6:00 7:55 10:00

6 SIX
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
11:10 1:55 4:40 7:25 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 THE WEDDING DATE
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

2 SIX
10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

3 THE INTERPRETER
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:30 9:00

4 GUESS WHO?
11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 9:00

5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:55 1:55 4:55 7:55

6 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

7 XXX 2
10:30 12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:20

8 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
1:55 4:55 7:55 10:30

NOVALICHES 935-3229/31

1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2:00 5:10 8:25

2 XXX 2
12:00 1:55 4:05 6:15 8:30

3 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
11:50 2:40 5:30 8:20

4 GUESS WHO?
12:50 3:20 5:50 8:25

5 SIX
10:40 1:05 3:30 5:55 8:25

6 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
10:20 1:30 4:40 7:50

7 RESERVE

8 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 XXX 2
2 RING OF NIBELUNGS
3 SIX
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2576

1 OK, KA PARE KO
2 SAHARA
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

CAINTA 240-4661

1 XXX 2
2 SAHARA
3 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
4 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS

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2 XXX 2
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1 XXX 2
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 SAHARA
4 THE INTERPRETER
5 THE JACKET

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1 XXX 2
2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 SAHARA
4 PARAISO

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2 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
3 THE JACKET
4 XXX 2
5 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
6 THE INTERPRETER

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1 THE INTERPRETER
2 SAHARA
3 THE WEDDING DATE
4 XXX 2
5 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
6 SAMARA RING 2

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1 XXX 2
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1 KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
2 XXX 2
3 THE JACKET
4 ONG BAK
5 MS. CONGENIALITY 2
6 SPANGLISH

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Editor Emmie G. Velarde

Love na love mo bang magluto?
STANDARD Gas-Stove

MANHOLE, AHOY!
Singer Martin Nievera fell into an open manhole while running away from zealous fans who watched him on "ASAP 2005" in Ayala Center, Cebu. Suffering cuts from a rusty paint can in the hole, Nievera was given anti-tetanus shots, pronto. But he turned up as scheduled in a morning show the next day.

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Monique Wilson, heart in hand /A3-1
- Lucy Gomez in flamenco show /A3-2
- J Lo, target of activists Only IN Hollywood /A3-4
- Mel Tiangco: Why was Korina dropped from TV Patrol? /A2-3

JENNIFER Lopez

MEL Tiangco

KORINA Sanchez

Stampede!

/A2-3

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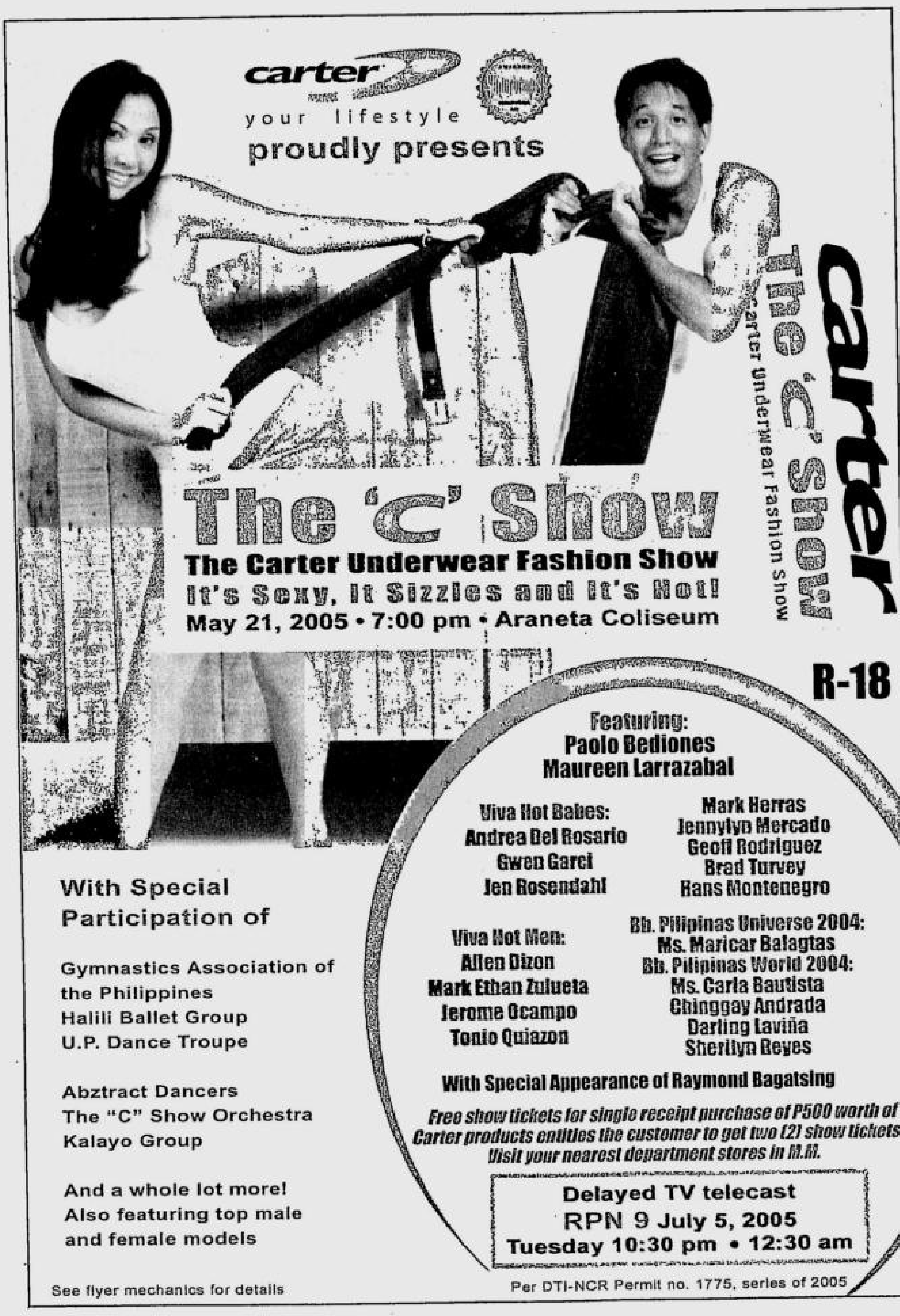
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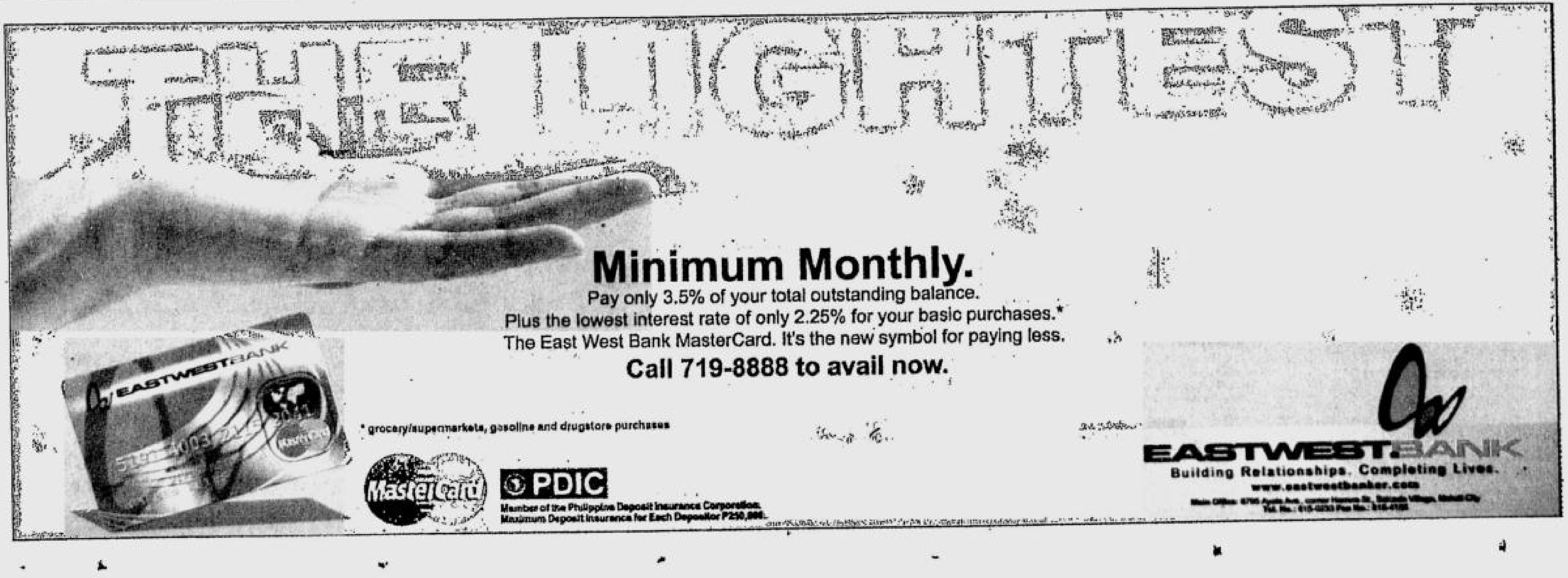
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'Mom's Little Chefs' on Mother's Day at Edsa Shang

ARMED with ladles, spatulas and wire whisks, the kids invade Edsa Shangri-La, Manila's kitchen to honor mom on her special day. Edsa Shangri-La presents a Mother's Day gift Mom will cherish forever.

Presenting "Mom's Little Chefs", a two-day cooking camp for children 8 to 12 years old. Team up with the hotel's big chefs on May 7 starting at 8 a.m. and prepare a fine six-course meal. In the morning of May 8, Mother's Day, the kids put the final touch on their creations. Then they serve it to mom and dad during the "little and big chef's parade" at the Lobby Lounge at noon. Kids get their very own chef's uniform and a certificate of graduation from Edsa Shangri-La's cool culinary school.

Enjoy this unique display of genuine love for mom for only P4,800 per child. Price includes lunch for the parents, all the ingredients, supervision of big chefs, and lunch for the child on both days. Class is limited to 40 children and registration is on a first-come-first-served basis.

Edsa Shangri-La also celebrates Mother's Day with feasts fit for a queen. Moms dining at any restaurant get a box of pralines and a long-stemmed rose. Enjoy Garden Café's extensive lunch and dinner buffet of Asian and Continental specialties, with action stations such as prime rib and *lechon* carvery. Feast on authentic Cantonese cuisine as Summer Palace pays tribute to mothers with sumptuous lunch and dinner set menus. At Nishiki, the Japanese lunch buffet of sushi, sashimi, maki, soba, tempura, sukiyaki, and other all-time favorites, is sure to delight the most important woman in the world.

Paparazzi shows mom Italian amore with a lunch buffet of antipasti, hot entrees, soup, homemade pasta and desserts, as well as a five-course set dinner prepared by our resident Italian chef. From May 1 to 15, tempting treats and premium Swiss chocolates in elegant boxes are available at the Bakeshop.

For inquiries and reservations at any of its restaurants, call 633-8888 extension 2738 to 39.

THE BELLEVUE HOTEL MARKS MOM'S DAY

For all the work that she has done, Mother deserves all the best. This Sunday, The Bellevue Hotel pays tribute to hardworking moms with its Mother's Day Buffet—available only on May 8. Treating families to a special buffet at P690++ available for lunch or dinner, The Bellevue cooks up mouth-watering international specialties in its renowned restaurant Café d' Asie. The restaurant also offers Cake Reflections, featuring Japonaise Mango Torte—layers of scrumptious Japonaise with special mango filling. Giveaways also await all mothers when they avail themselves of the promo.

CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY AT NEW WORLD RENAISSANCE HOTEL

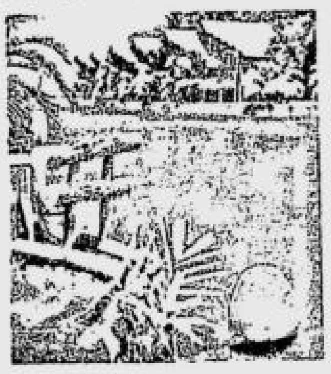
On Sunday, May 8, take mom out for a Mother's Day treat at the New World Renaissance Hotel and give her a choice of different special ways to celebrate in the deluxe hotel's stylish restaurants. The bustling Coffee Shop offers a sumptuous lunch and dinner buffet of international dishes complete with delicious carvery items at P1,088+. Mothers get a refreshing Four Season's cocktail. Bocarinos features a set menu of exquisite selections of the fine continental fare that it is known for, offered for lunch at P1,288+. A Four Season's cocktail as well will be given to Mothers. For an oriental feast, Emperor Court is the perfect choice with its special set menus, for lunch and dinner that range from P1,180+ to P1,380+ per person. Included in the Chinese set menus is a Longevity Bun for mothers and Eight Treasures Tea. All moms will be given a special gift as a special memento of the memorable occasion.

Celebrate Mom at Fuego Hotels

MAKE this year's Mothers Day, May 8, extra special for your mom. Treat her to a great weekend at the new Taal Vista Hotel in Tagaytay or at the Pearl farm Beach Resort in Samal Island. She will surely feel appreciated and pampered with the treats that await her in these Fuego Hotels.

Over at Taal Vista Hotel, Moms get a surprise gift and a complimentary souvenir family photo after enjoying the sumptuous lunch buffet at the café on the ridge. At the picturesque Pearl Farm Beach Resort, Moms are in for a truly relaxing and enriching day. A yoga instructor will give a free session to help Moms de-stress. Special fun games with exciting prizes will be conducted by the resorts' friendly staff for moms who prefer a more active time.

Club Punta Fuego members who happen to be Moms get a special dessert, compliments of the Chef, at either the San Diego Café at the main Country Club or at the Café Sol in Terrazas de Punta Fuego. Moreover, Moms get a free lunch at the San Diego café if she is with at least four paying family members.



Luxurious and spacious living at Somerset Salcedo, Makati

WHETHER you are retreating from the city beat or savoring the charm of the local culture, Somerset Salcedo is the ideal private haven for an enriching executive lifestyle in Manila. Located in the heart of Salcedo Village, Somerset Salcedo presents the convenience of proximity to corporate/commercial establishments and the comfort of being in an ideal residential environment. The spacious serviced apartments range from studio to three bedroom suites and feature comprehensive amenities making guests feel at home right here in Manila. Recreational facilities which include an indoor swimming pool, Fitness Centre, pool table, children's playroom and golf putting area are available for the residents' leisure. The spacious function room is ideal for meetings or conventions. For dining, its residents can satisfy their hearty appetites at Coquina or Akebono. For a day of relaxation during weekends, guests can enjoy being pampered at the Salon De Manila located on the ground floor.

Mother's Day Specials at the Manila Pavilion Hotel

FOR delivering us into this world, for instantly loving us unconditionally, and for caring for us like no other, the Manila Pavilion Hotel enjoins everyone in celebrating Mother's Day.

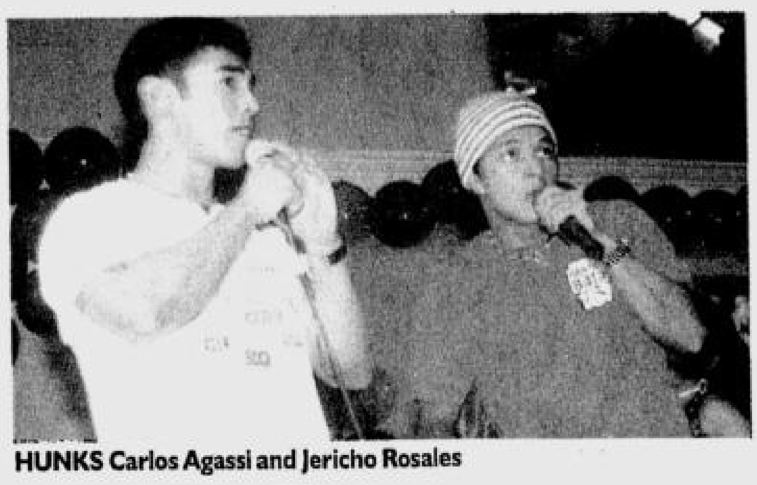
On May 7, Manila Pavilion has prepared an elegant dinner at the Rotisserie called "Mama Mi Amor". The delicious menu includes Mother's Day Teezer, Warm Sea Scallops Quiche on Summer Greens with sun-dried Tomato Vinaigrette, Creamy Asparagus and Basil Foam soup, Calamansi Sherbet, Roast Beef Tenderloin with Peppercorn sauce, Garlic Prawns, Spinach Leaf and Marble Potatoes, Mother's Day Symphony of Desserts, Brewed Coffee or a choice of Tea and pralines. "Mama Mi Amor" is available from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at P850++ per person.

On May 8, Mother's Day itself, a special lunch and dinner buffet awaits at Café Coquilla dubbed as "Moms In Bloom". On the lone, single day honoring mothers, treat yours to a restful Sunday by allowing her to partake of the "Moms In Bloom" buffet! This is available from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at P750++ per adult and P375 ++ per child aged 12 years and below.

Stampede in Cebu

Fans risk life and limb for a glimpse of favorite stars

By Bayani San Diego Jr.


HUNKS Carlos Agassi and Jericho Rosales

AFTER the chaos, a more orderly show. Onstage is Bituin Escalante.

CEBU CITY—Fans stampeded in Ayala Center right before an ABS-CBN mall show on Saturday, second day of the network's promo blitz in the southern capital.

Monobloc chairs and pieces of metal railings flew as waves of zealous spectators surged toward the stage.

No one was reported hurt, but the melee left a wailing child or two in its wake, and a frantic *lola* searched the grounds for her missing *bakya*.

So many!

The same couldn't be said of the stars, who suffered bruises and scratches.

Amy Perez, Roderick Paulate, Nikki Gil, and Angelica Panganiban were among the casualties. But they all shrugged it off as "evidence of the Cebuanos' love and warmth."

"There were so many people, everywhere we went," guest star Rachel Alejandro told the media later in Tambuli Resort, which was likewise swarming with fans even though it was on faraway Mactan island.

To think that homegrown ABS-CBN talents Angela Calina and Jude Bacalso earlier claimed that Cebuano fans "are really not showy (demonstrative)."

On this weekend they were, definitely.

ERIK Santos

It was obvious that the showdown here between ABS-CBN and GMA 7 (April 29 to May 1) had charged up the local crowd.

The collision has been described variously as "a *miting de avance*" and "all-out war."

Strewn all over the city were streamers and posters of the two giant networks.

"It really is a lot like an election," said a source from ABS-CBN, "or a fiesta."

"Some of our Cebuano friends were saying this event was bigger than *Sinulog*," said Charo Santos-Concio, ABS-CBN EVP and Entertainment head. She added: "At the airport in Manila, I told some of our GMA-7 friends: 'This [weekend] will be fun!'"

The revelry, however, smacked of politics.

It was as if the Visayan viewers were being asked to vote which of the country's two top networks is No. 1.

GMA 7 claimed it was No. 1 in Mega Manila; ABS-CBN countered that they were No. 1 all over the country.

War stories

Throughout the weekend, they were clearly monitoring each other's movements.

Case in point: Over *merienda*, "TV Patrol" Central Visayas anchor Leo Lastimosa fumed: "It's sad that our competitor had to resort to dirty tactics, ferrying audiences to the venues in a fleet of buses."

The following day at breakfast, GMA insiders were denying the "dirty tactics" allegation.

It was also a war of words. Charges and counter-charges flew thick and fast.

The GMA camp insisted that ABS-CBN's decision to invade Cebu was a last-minute decision.

ABS-CBN, through Santos-Concio, explained that summer specials have always been a part of the station's annual calendar.

"Every year, we bring our different musical-variety shows like 'ASAP' and 'MTB' to the provinces. It's just that this year, we planned something bigger," Santos-Concio said.

GMA 7, through president and CEO Felipe L. Gozon, reportedly approved a P40-million budget for the blitz only after the head-on collision with ABS-CBN was confirmed.

On the other hand, Santos-Concio insisted: "We just spent our regular budgets [and] got a little help from our friends in Cebu."

Surreal

Food flowed from host restaurants and vehicles were lent by said Cebuano friends, who also donated streamers and giveaways.

"Aggressiveness is also a function of competition," Santos-Concio said, unperturbed. "And there is nothing wrong with competition."

"Surreal," a talent manager called the Cebu confrontation. "It's palpable proof that there is a raging network war."

Guess who's caught in the crossfire? The hapless masses, of course, who would risk life and limb and brave a stampede for a glimpse of Jericho Rosales and Shaina Magdayao.

Mel 'surprised' when Korina was dropped from 'TV Patrol'

By Marinel R. Cruz

CEBU CITY—"Why did ABS-CBN do that?"

GMA 7's award-winning broadcaster Mel Tiangco was reacting to a question posed by entertainment writers about the Kapamilya network's decision late last year to replace her archrival, Korina Sanchez, as anchorperson of the prime time news program "TV Patrol."

"I was surprised when I heard the news," Tiangco said during a gathering at the SM City Trade Hall. "ABS-CBN has yet to produce Korina's successor. Until the time she was replaced, she was the queen there. We were not expecting it ... I wasn't expecting it. Of course, you ask yourself, 'Why?' Then speculations started."

ABS-CBN appointed Korina as chief correspondent for the network's Philippine and Global operations. Karen Davila and Ted Failon replaced her on "TV Patrol"; Korina's co-anchor, Julius Babao, was retained.

According to reports, Korina was dropped from "TV Patrol" in line with the network's effort to regain top slot in the ratings. GMA 7's "24 Oras," is now in the coveted slot.

Picky

Also lording over the ratings is Mel's drama series, "Magpakailanman," beating ABS-CBN's longest-running drama show, "Maalaala Mo Kaya," hosted by executive Charo Santos-Concio.

Mel disclosed: "I'm very picky about the stories that come out on 'Magpakailanman.' I always tell the staff, 'Look, we [want something] that will serve as an inspiration ... not give people a moral predicament.'"

A program committee goes through each storyline very carefully and decides, Mel said. The show's executive producer then submits the approved script to Mel.

"SHE WAS the queen there," Mel, right, says.

"I [always] ask, 'What's the story about? What's the focus?' I have shot down a couple of stories," she revealed. "This show is really important to me."

For Arnold Clavio, host of the public service program "Emergency," nothing is more rewarding than being able to help others through his Igan Foundation.

The two-year-old charitable institution aims to collect funds to build "Paraiso ni Igan." According to Arnold, this is a place where young cancer patients can rest or play between chemotherapy sessions. "We plan to build a Paraiso ni Igan in every hospital throughout the country," he said.

Arnold is also in the cast of the early morning variety show "Unang Hirit," and is Vicky Morales' co-anchor in the late-night news program "Saksi: Liga ng Katotohan." He also hosts the radio show "Dobol A sa Dobol B" with Ali Sotto on dzBB.

"Work is therapy for me," said Arnold. "I don't take vacations although my doctor. says I need to lose weight and watch my sugar level [because] I'm a candidate for diabetes."

For veteran reporter Susan Enriquez, known for covering dangerous assignments like the Abu Sayyaf hostage-taking incidents in Basilan, no story is worth dying for.

"I have the welfare of my daughter to consider. She's 12 now," the ace reporter explained. "If you die while covering a military operation people would probably say, 'She was a hard-working reporter.' They may pay tribute to you for three to four days. On TV, *mahaba na ang* five-minute story."

She added: "This is why I'd rather that my daughter pursue a profession other than journalism, [which is] a tough job."

Susan is also the host of the weekly magazine show "Kay Susan Tayo." She says it is through the program that "people get to see the real Susan; how I laugh, how I talk and how I have fun."

Service fair

Among those present during the grand public service fair, titled "Serbisyong Totoo sa Cebu," in SM City here were Vicky Morales, Mike Enriquez, Jessica Soho, Rhea Santos, Maki Pulido, Jiggy Manicad and Ivan Mayrina.

At the fair, free medical and dental services were made available to the Cebuanos through "Emergency," and "At Your Service." "Pinoy Abroad" provided Cebuanos the opportunity to call their relatives abroad, and "Reporter's Notebook" conducted a broadcast journalism seminar.

'Bella, so long and good night'

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

PINOY music stalwart Bella Tan's send-off at Christ the King Chapel in Quezon City on Saturday night was attended by VIPs led by President Macapagal-Arroyo and Senators Richard Gordon and Ramon "Bong" Revilla.

It was a distinction well-deserved. The late Tan was instrumental in shaping what has become known as Original Pilipino Music, or OPM. She helped established artists like Gary Valenciano and Apo Hiking Society produce topnotch albums, while also helping newcomers like Parokya ni Edgar break into the mainstream recording scene. She fought piracy, personally joining raids conducted by the old Video Regulatory Board (VRB), according to a tribute video that her son Jeffrey had produced and showed during the necrological service.

Ramon Chuaying, executive vice president of Universal Records, which Tan ran as managing director, recalled that Bella had always shown interest in developing new artists. And so she moved out ot the finance department of the company, then Wea Records—sister company of Dyna, co-founded by her father Dr. James Dy in the 1950s—to do exactly that.

"She excelled in it. She spent a lot of time talking to the artists, composers and musicians," Chuaying said.

Now that Tan was gone, Chuaying told INQUIRER Entertainment, he was temporarily stepping into her shoes.

"Her passion in music, especially in OPM, will live on," he said during the service, and then promised: "Your company will be in good hands."

Speakers during the two-hour program concurred that Tan was a "workaholic" who truly loved the people she worked with. Even while she sought medical treatment in Houston, Texas, recently, Chuaying recounted, Tan would routinely send text messages to her staff.

Her cousin and friend, Tessie Tan-Perez, said: "She would sometimes come home at 5 in the morning from a recording. Two-thirds of her life she devoted to Universal Records." However, Tan-Perez added, "She had been begging God for one-and-a-half years more, so she could attend her daughter Jackie's wedding in June next year."

"She was a perfectionist," echoed Jeffrey, speaking on behalf of his father Jack, who was said to be greatly devastated by their loss. Jeffrey made this appeal to the artists whom Tan cared for so much: "Continue to touch people's lives with your music. Keep them entertained through your songs. This would make my mother very happy."

Jeffrey announced that his family was putting up a foundation in honor of his mother, and that one of its first beneficiaries would be the Chinese General Hospital, where Tan had first sought treatment.

The guests, including President Macapagal-Arroyo, obliged when Jeffrey asked the audience to give Tan a standing ovation. The President left at 11:15 p.m.

Jeffrey's tribute video was accompanied by "Break Me," the last song that Tan heard before she succumbed to lung cancer on April 26 at age 51. It was Gary's latest composition, which Tan had egged the pop star to finish. Gary played it for her less than an hour before she breathed her last.

"After she heard it, she hugged Gary and then me and she said thank you," recalled Gary's wife Angeli, who emceed the program. She noted that Tan and Gary had been co-producers for the last 19 years.

GARY V's special song PHOTOS BY VAL HANDUMON

JAMES Dy, Tan's father and mentor

Gary sang "Break Me," "I Will be Here" and, during the Mass that preceded the service, "Our Lord's Prayer" and "Lead Me Lord."

The singer remembered: "I will never forget the smile on her face whenever I saw her after a concert. It wasn't about, 'this is my artist,' but more, 'this is my friend.' My heart is broken. My life wouldn't have been so blessed if I hadn't met Bella Tan."

Gary's fellow Universal Records artists Gino Padilla, Dingdong Avanzado and Roxy also performed for their boss and friend. Dingdong recalled that he last saw Tan alive on New Year's Day, when he sat as judge in a Universal Records-sponsored concert in a TV show.

"She would always ask me if I was still writing songs, and that day was no exception," Dingdong said. "Now that my wife Jess and I have signed up with Universal, I promise her that I will."

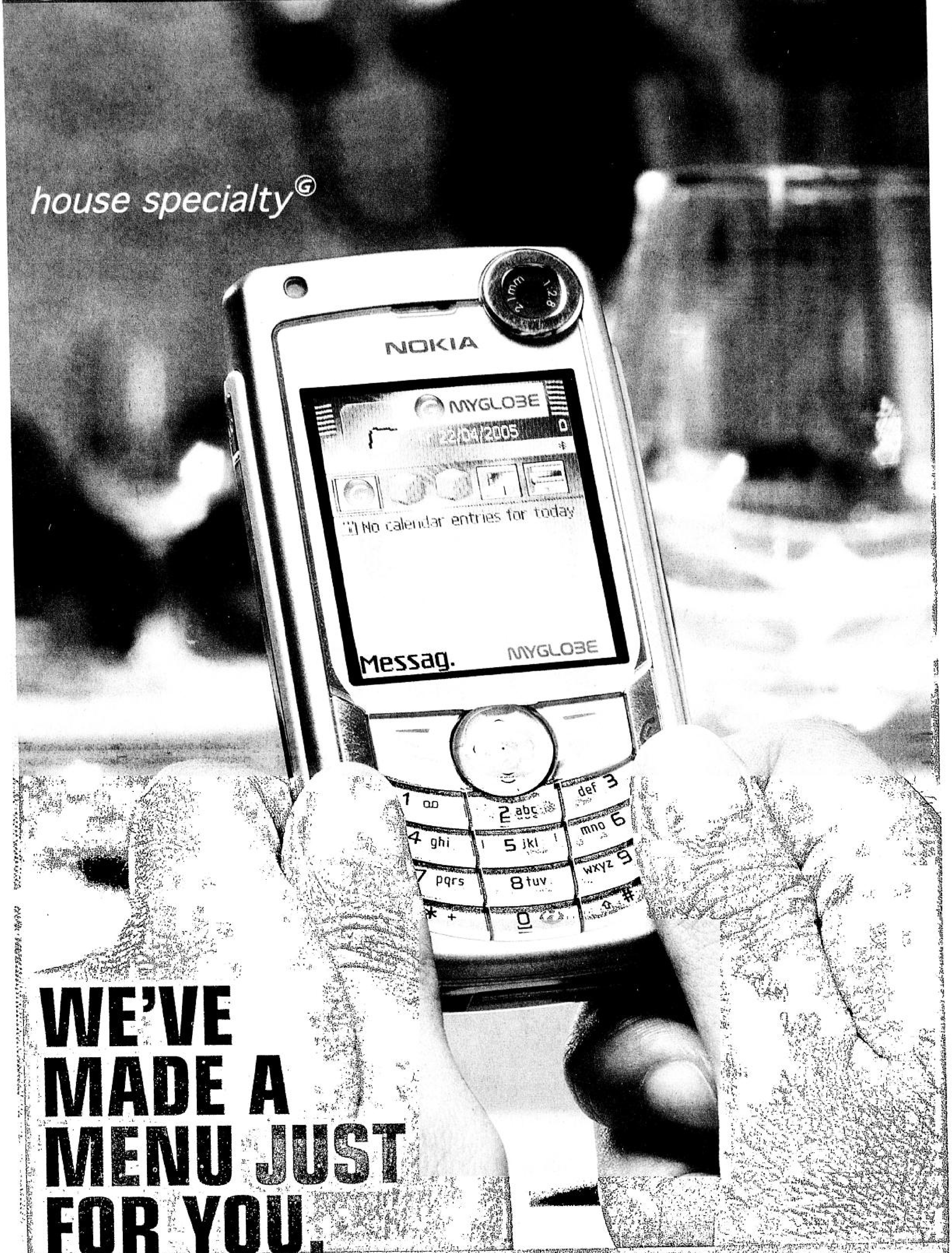
Jamie Rivera, a Star Records artist, sang "Only Selfless Love" during the Mass and "Tanging Yaman" during the program.

Talent manager Arnold Vegafria sent his new artist, Rizza Novales, to represent him during the service and sing "Wind Beneath My Wings." He later turned up with singer Jenine Desiderio.

Samantha Chavez also sang during the Mass. After the service, Regal Films' Lily Monteverde was seen approaching the coffin with actor Rudy Fernandez and Sen. Ramon "Bong" Revilla. Also seen at the wake were Willie Revillame, John Prats and talent manager Ronnie Henares.

Jose Mari Chan cut short his Australian trip to pay his last respects. "There's sadness and joy in my heart," the businessman and top-selling artist said. "Her father was my first producer 38 years ago. They are honest and hard working partners in the music industry. Bella, so long and good night."

G-PLAN It's no wonder more people prefer G-Plans.



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Heart in hand, Monique reminisces

By Francis O. Villacorta
Contributor

REVIEW

WHEN true artists look back on their careers, they inevitably do so with a sense of romanticism: the journey is usually long and every moment is worth relishing.

In celebration of her 25 years in theater, Monique Wilson recently starred in a concert that reflected on her own journey, which began in 1980 when she was 9, with Repertory Philippines.

The little girl Monique dreamed, believed and persevered. On Saturday evening, she narrated the years that came between those days of dreaming and her present reality.

The night of musical remembrances began with "When You Wish Upon A Star" (from "Pinocchio") and "If You Believe" (from "The Wiz"), rendered by Monique and 9-year-old nightingale Julia Abueva.

Monique recalled how theater stalwart Zeneida "Bibot" Amador molded her, honing her talent between performances and production work.

She thanked her mentor by singing "Pie Jesu" (from "Requiem"), visibly holding back tears—a touching performance.

In "The Phantom of the Opera" medley she was most engaging, singing with her friend Cocoy Laurel. It was a moment of theatrical triumph.

Monique then complimented Lea Salonga with stories of the latter's kindness and generosity during the mounting of Cameron Mackintosh's "Miss Saigon" (1989-1991).

But it was in the tribute to her father, the late Johnny Wilson—"Papa, Can You Hear Me," from "Yentl"—that tears came running down Monique's cheeks. For her mother, she sang "Mama" by Il Divo.

Full backup

With members of her New Voice (theater) Company, Monique sang songs from the musicals they have previously staged—"Chess," "Falsettos," "A Chorus Line" and "Cabaret." Particularly impressive were Lynn Sherman and Jake Macapagal.

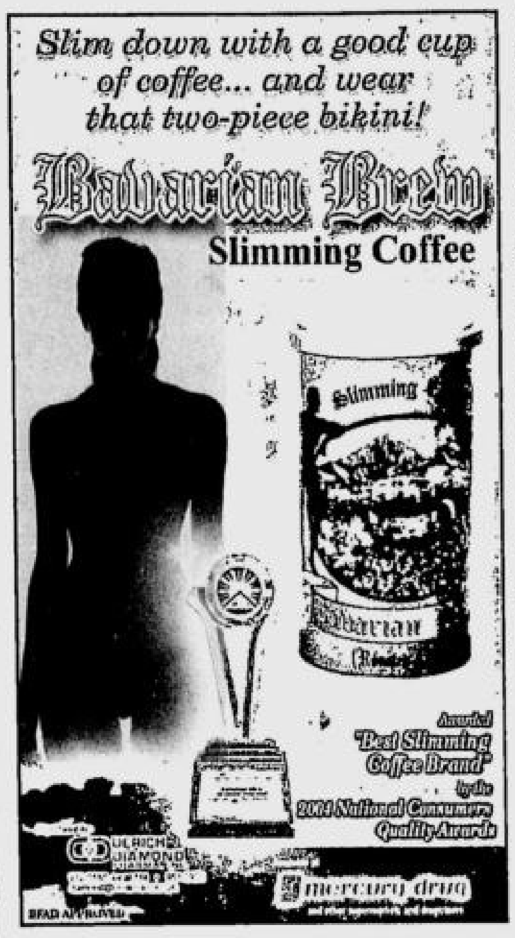
(New Voice, established in 1994, embarked on such daring projects as Tony Kushner's "Angels in America: Perestroika" in 1995 and Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" in 2000. In 1996, Monique received a Parangal ng Bayan Award for arts and culture. In 1998, she was a Towns (The Outstanding Women of the Nation) awardee for theater arts. Again in 2000, she was honored with an Outstanding Citizen of Manila Award for theater arts.)

"Monique—25 Years in Theatre" ended with the celebrator's rendition of "When You Believe" (from "Prince of Egypt") and the encore number, "You Raised Me Up,"

Conceived and directed by Monique, the concert was admirable for its sustained mood, enhanced enormously by Martin Esteva's lighting design.

But what made the show really come through was Monique's sincerity and artistic integrity. Everything came from the heart, rendering her at once gracious, intense and luminous.

"PAPA, Can You Hear Me?"



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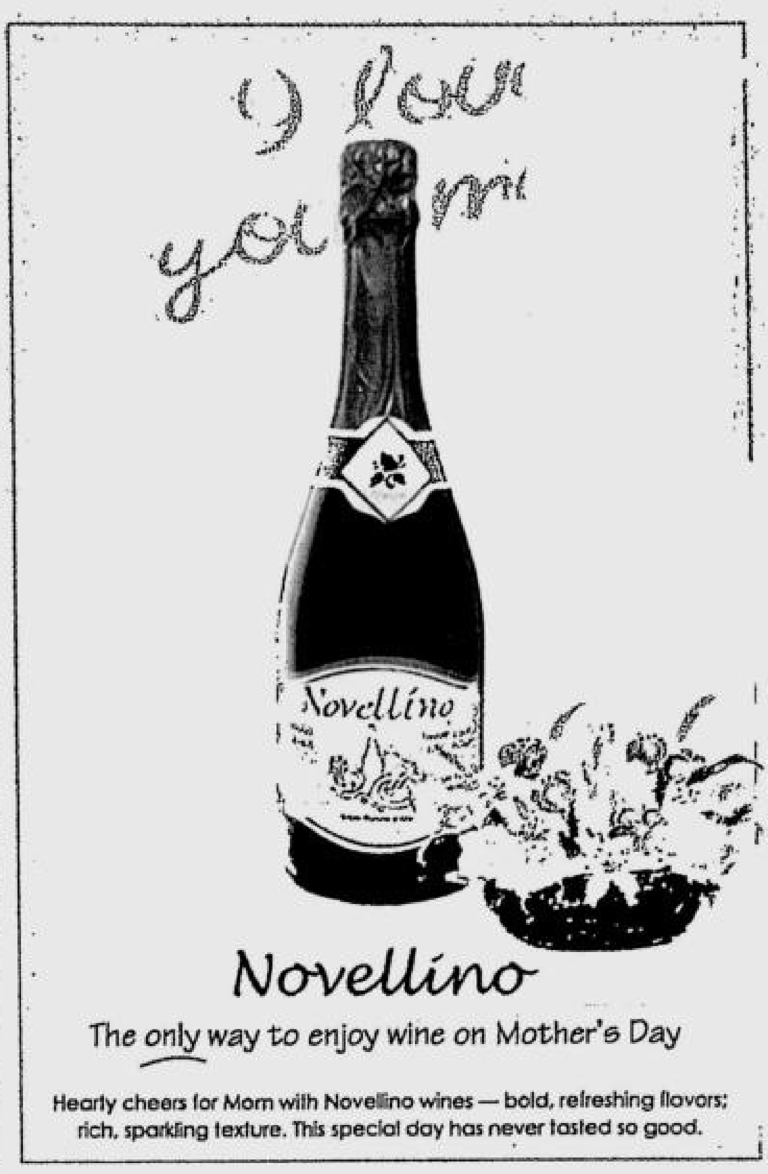

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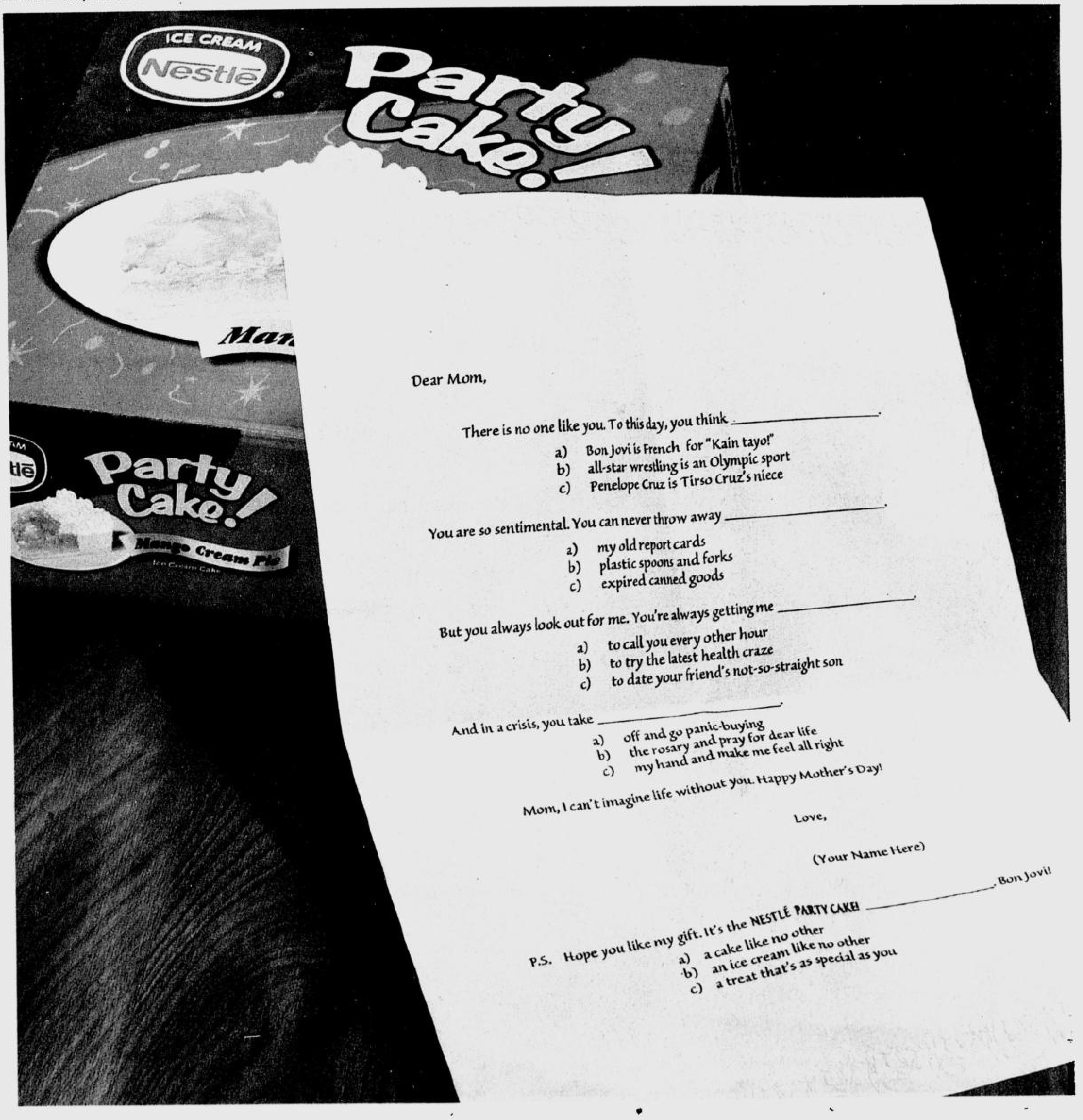


Dear Mom,

There is no one like you. To this day, you think ______________.

a) Bon Jovi is French for "Kain tayo!"
b) all-star wrestling is an Olympic sport
c) Penelope Cruz is Tirso Cruz's niece

You are so sentimental. You can never throw away ______________.

a) my old report cards
b) plastic spoons and forks
c) expired canned goods

But you always look out for me. You're always getting me ______________.

a) to call you every other hour
b) to try the latest health craze
c) to date your friend's not-so-straight son

And in a crisis, you take ______________.

a) off and go panic-buying
b) the rosary and pray for dear life
c) my hand and make me feel all right

Mom, I can't imagine life without you. Happy Mother's Day!

Love,

(Your Name Here)

P.S. Hope you like my gift. It's the NESTLÉ PARTY CAKE! ______________, Bon Jovi!

a) a cake like no other
b) an ice cream like no other
c) a treat that's as special as you

Heritage Festival celebrates Filipino culture, creativity and tradition

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE MONTH-LONG Filipino Heritage Festival unreeled last April 29 with "Davao: Mindanao Heritage Rediscovered." The celebration of the region's "three Cs—culture, couture and cuisine—featured tribal dances, exhibitions, fashion using native textiles (by **Rajo Laurel**), and tours of heritage sites like Lake Sebu, Eden Nature Park, Malagos Garden Resort, and a Pearl Farm.

On May 3, the food festival, showcase of Filipino Cuisine, opened in Makati City. Ongoing until May 30, the festival highlights the mixture of Spanish, Chinese and Malay cuisine that Filipinos have assimilated over the centuries.

Gustatorial treats range from ancestral recipes of old families at the Manila Peninsula Hotel, to *Kapampangan* delicacies at the Hotel Intercontinental; Bulacan cuisine at the Mandarin Oriental Manila; the fresh seafood of Cebu at the New World Renaissance Hotel; spicy Bicolano cuisine at Edsa Shangri-La Plaza Hotel, and popular Filipino regional cuisine at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

Last May 4, the photo exhibit "Meet Your National Artists," opened at Rustan's Tower at Shangri-La Plaza. The exhibit on 45 top Filipino artists' lives and works runs until May 30.

From May 4 to 31, an exhibit of indigenous textiles, "Tribal Expressions," is on view at Rustan's Tower, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza. The exotic kaleidoscope of native designs and textiles from Aparri to Jolo comes from Nayong Pilipino and private collections.

On May 6, the province of Batangas joins in the colorful observance of Philippine Heritage Month, with Taal (the Heritage Town) as the venue. The schedule of activities includes: At 8 a.m., a concelebrated Mass at the Basilica of San Martin de Tours. At 9:30 a.m., the book "Mga Tula ng Batang Taal," will be launched. The 45 poems are the result of a workshop conducted for Taal students by Dr. **Domingo Landicho.** Another book, "Bathaluman at Ibang Katha," will be launched by Landicho. It is produced in collaboration with Ateneo Press and DepEd Taal District.

At 11 a.m., a kite festival, "Saranggolahan," with the theme, "Unity Through Heritage," will be participated in by Taal's different barangays. Lunch features famous local delicacies, typical Pagkaing Taal, at Casa Punzalan Pension.

At 5:30 p.m., "Konsiyerto sa Kiosko—Noon at Ngayon." The concert of original Filipino music features a varied repertoire of songs performed by gifted singers.

Many more cultural and heritage activities will be held in Taal on May 7 and 8, so visitors are enjoined to make a full weekend of it. Taal is only two hours away from Manila, but its old homes and buildings swiftly transport culture buffs and tourists to the storied past, full of intimations on what it means to be truly, richly Filipino.

Members of the month-long Filipino Heritage Festival's working committee are **Anna Maria L. Harper, Armita B. Rufino** and **Araceli R. Salas.** The ad-hoc committee is composed of Chair **Ambeth Ocampo,** Vice Chair **Armita B. Rufino,** and members Anna Maria L. Harper, Araceli R. Salas, Charlie Rufino, **Jose Mari Chan, Lourdes Mastura, Jaime C. Laya, Margie Moran Floirendo,** and **Frances Chua.** (More on the festival on Saturday.)

Catholic Mass Media Awards

CMMA 2005 is officially on. Exceptional media products released from May 2004 to April 2005 can be nominated until May 16.

Entries may be submitted by any person or organization wishing to direct the CMMA's attention to a meritorious program, series, article, etc. Areas up for evaluation are TV, cinema, advertising, radio, print, music, internet and Serviam.

(For Serviam entries, individuals nominated should best exemplify CMMA objections and values in the field of communications. Institutional and corporate entries must be organizations or companies that have made outstanding contributions in media in line with CMMA objectives and values.)

For more details, call 8674026.

'Mobile Suit Gundam ZZ'

FOLLOWING the hugely popular "Mobile Suit Z Gundam," the inspirational title character is back to wow viewers in the upcoming premiere of "Mobile Suit Gundam ZZ" on Wednesday, May 25, on the Animax channel.

Season finale

THE TWO-HOUR season finale of "The Amazing Race," Season 7, will be seen exclusively on AXN at 9 p.m., May 11. Remaining teams compete for the top prize of one million dollars—**Vehemna** and **Joyce, Ron** and **Kelly,** and "Survivor: All Stars" winners **Rob** and **Amber.**

'McDo Extra Challenge'

UP to May 31, any McDonald's purchase of Large Fries and Coke entitles customers to one "Extra Challenge at McDonald's" game card. Scratch off the silver-coated portion and get a chance to win delicious prizes.

Or win even bigger prizes (mobile phone, digital camera, film camera, etc.) if you complete an in-store "McDonald's Extra Challenge" at the branch where you bought your Large Fries and Coke!

Lucy at Centro Fla

LUCY Torres-Gomez is one of the participants in the Juerga Flamenca on May 8, 3 p.m. at the Centro Flamenco. She will be performing Sevillanas and Fandangos in the matinee. "Juerga" means jamming in Spanish. The show will feature alegrias, tangos, bellydancing and fan dances to be performed by flamenco enthusiasts. World-class performer Clara Ramona directed the show with assistant Cecille de Joya. Centro Flamenco is located at SJG Center, 8463 Rockwell Drive, Makati. Call 751-2243.

LUCY Torres-Gomez

SHOW TIME

Tonight

Christian Bautista in "The Way You Look at Christian Bautista," at **Casino Filipino in Parañaque. Dianne de la Fuente** is special guest. Call 9115555.

"Bedazzled II" at **Club Mwah!**, Fridays and Saturdays; 10:30 p.m. Call 5357943

The Jerks at **'70s Bistro,** Fridays. Call 4343597

Route 70 at **Merk's**

Tomorrow

Gary V @ 22 mall tour at **Robinson's Metro East**

Aiza Seguerra at **Metropolis Star Alabang,** 8 p.m. Call 8503845

Emm Gryner at **Gweilos,** Eastwood City, Libis

"Once On This Island," a musical retelling of the Little Mermaid fable, at the **Carlos P. Romulo Theater,** RCBC Plaza, Makati City, with Friday and Saturday evening shows at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinee shows at 3 p.m. The play runs until May 29. Call 5365844.

EMM Gryner

May 7

Jerome John Hughes "We Could Be In Love" album mall tour at **SM Bacoor;** 5 p.m.

Freestyle live at **Metropolis Star Alabang,** 5 p.m.

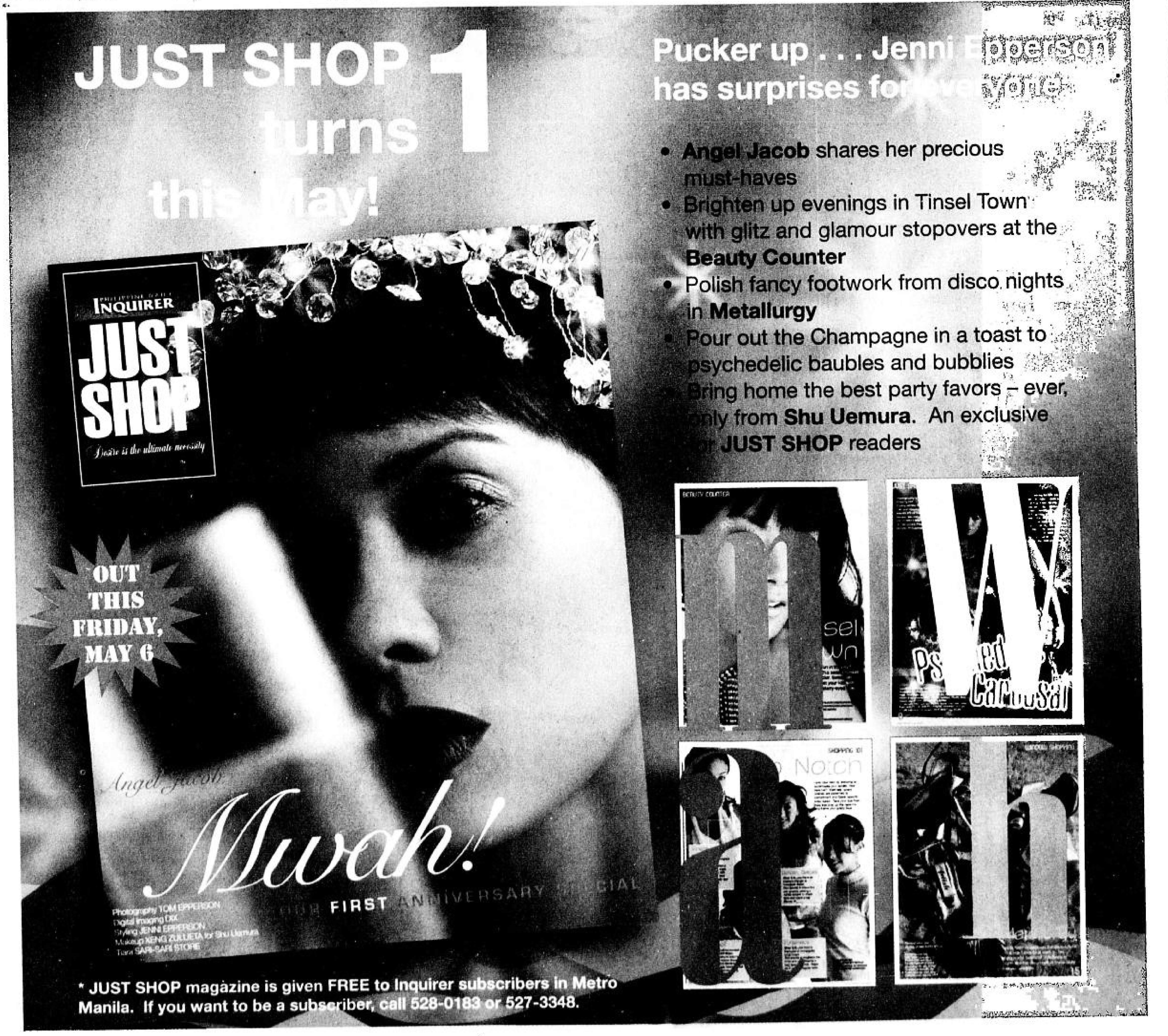
Gary V "Soul Full" album tour at **The Podium;** 6 p.m.

Zsa Zsa Padilla and daughter **Karylle** in the Mother's Day show, "K to Z" at the Music Museum. Call 7216726.

Friendship Concert of Filipino and Korean children at Fleur de Liz Auditorium of St. Paul University Manila, Pedro Gil St., Malate, Manila. Call 7240705.

Neocolours at the **NCCC Convention Hall** in Davao City; 7 p.m. Tickets are available at NCCC Mall Administration Office.

SIDE A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OUT THIS FRIDAY, MAY 6

Pucker up . . . Jenni Epperson has surprises for everyone:

- **Angel Jacob** shares her precious must-haves
- Brighten up evenings in Tinsel Town with glitz and glamour stopovers at the **Beauty Counter**
- Polish fancy footwork from disco nights in **Metallurgy**
- Pour out the Champagne in a toast to psychedelic baubles and bubblies
- Bring home the best party favors – ever, only from **Shu Uemura.** An exclusive for **JUST SHOP** readers

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amenco on Sunday

NEOCOLOURS

Emm Gryner at **Capones** in Makati

May 8

Rachelle Ann Go at **Starmall Edsa**, 4 p.m.

Sharon Cuneta US Tour at Moran Performing Arts Theater in **Jacksonville, Florida.**

Kitchie Nadal at **Enchanted Kingdom**, 7 p.m.

May 9

Side A at Hyatt Regency's **Calesa Bar.** Call 8331234

Rivermaya at **'70s Bistro,** Anonas St., QC. Call 4343597

May 10

Behind Closed Doors at **Funnside**, Timog Ave., QC; 8 p.m.

Ladine Roxas at **Merk's**

Emm Gryner at **Saguijo Bar** in Makati

May 11

Wednesday Jazz Festival with **Lynn Sherman** at **Merk's**

Paolo Santos at **'70s Bistro**, Anonas St., QC. Call 4343597

Emm Gryner at **Music One** in Greenbelt 3, Makati

May 12

Aubrey Miles, Francine Prieto, Jeni Hernandez, Sheree and **Belinda Bright** at "Metal Dreams: FHM 100 Sexiest Women in the World Victory Party" at the **NBC Tent**, The Fort; 8 p.m.

Route 70 at **Funnside, Timog, QC; 8 p.m.**

Bridge at **'70s Bistro**, Anonas St., QC. Call 4343597

Acoustic Jive at **Merk's**

May 13

Spirit of '67 at **Starmall Edsa**, 4 p.m.

Emm Gryner at **Village Courtyard** in Cebu

May 13 and 14

Ella May Saison is back in "Soulful, the Concert" at the **Music Museum. Nina, Akafellas** and **Jimmy Bondoc** are guest performers. Call 8919999.

May 14

RJ Guitar Festival: The Concert at the **Antel Entertainment Complex,** Makati Ave. corner Gen. Luna St. Performers include **Nyoy Volante, Aiza Seguerra, Noel Cabangon, Paolo Santos, Florante, Pido, Rene Garcia** of the Hotdog, **The Dawn, Rage Band, Jun Lopito** and **Joey Puyat.**

Emm Gryner at **Club North** in Bacolod City

Razorback at **'70s Bistro,** Anonas St., QC. Call 4343597

Parokya ni Edgar, Kitchie Nadal and **Urbandub** at the **SM City Cebu** Parking Lot for MTV Hits Cebu Band Competition. For details, call (02) 8899251 in Manila or (032) 2340048 in Cebu.

Jed Madela in "Songs Rediscovered Live" at **Plaza Beatriz Hotel** in Ozamiz City

Faith Cuneta at **SM Baguio.**

"Spettacolo Pirotecnico," light and fireworks show at **Enchanted Kingdom,** 9 p.m.

May 15

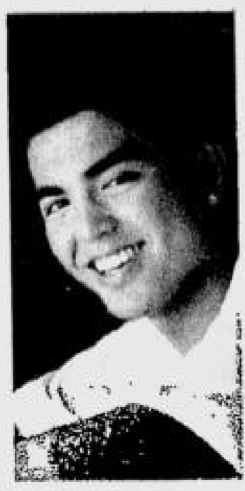
Phase Cuts Band at **Metropolis Star Alabang**, 4 p.m.

Kevyn Lettau at **Fuzion Smoothie Caféat** The Podium

"StarStruck Superstar" concert series featuring Mark Herras at **Enchanted Kingdom**, 7 p.m.

Emm Gryner at **Juice** in Boracay

April Tatlongbayan in **Norwalk, Connecticut, USA**



MARK Herras

THE GUY Jetsetters was the featured band during the 27th foundation anniversary of the Severino Homeowners Association recently in Barangay Marcelo Green, Parañaque City. The band members—all from Iriga City— are Yari Maglaqui, Totong Nanjo, Cony Clutario, Bobby de las Llagas, Raul Delas and retired Lt. Col. Lucio Margallo, band leader, second from left. ROGER MARGALLO

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4 GUESS WHO? 12:35, 3:10, 5:45 8:20, 10:50 PG-13

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A monster preem ... or why JLo's Marc Anthony looks familiar

REY Valera and Marc Anthony: Separated at birth?

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—At last week's monster party for the **Jennifer Lopez-Jane Fonda** comedy "Monster-in-Law" at the Armand Hammer Museum, I finally figured why **Marc Anthony** looks familiar.

When I saw Jennifer's current and **Dayanara Torres'** ex up close, it hit me: Marc looks like… **Rey Valera!** The only difference is, the Latin superstar is fairer. Other than that, if Rey sports a mustache and goatee, he might cause Jennifer to do a double take—that is, if their paths should ever cross.

J Lo did cross paths, sort of, with members of Peta (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) who showed up in full force carrying placards and chanting slogans against the actress/singer/designer for her propensity to wear fur and for including garments in white mink and fox in her first catwalk collection. Security at this premiere was tighter than usual, with the protesters being allowed to yell as loud as they want but they were on the other side of the street. To gawkers, the animal rights advocates were as much an attraction as the stars walking down the red carpet in front of the Mann National Theatre in Westwood (the UCLA campus is nearby) where "Monster-in-Law" was screened. A bizarre sight was **Randy Quaid**, with wife **Evi** in tow wearing a flowing kimono gown.

After the movie, as my wife **Janet** and I and other guests walked the short distance to the Hammer Museum for the premiere party, one of Peta's activists handed us a DVD that showed how animals are bludgeoned and skinned alive. (Thank you, Peta—Janet told me I don't have to buy her dream $40,000 fur coat anymore. Whew!)

In the center of the universe, er, museum's courtyard, Jennifer, sans fur, held court with Marc. There was an unusual sight—credentialed photographers (not the street paparazzi, of course) actually did not have their fingers poised to take pictures before such a media-hot couple. It was a momentary truce as Mr. and Ms Marc Anthony nibbled at their Wolfgang Puck-catered food while the photogs stood by, itching to shoot, I bet. Then, an Asian-looking woman, possibly Filipina, touched up Jennifer's make-up. After that, a signal was given and boom, flash bulbs popped like crazy.

Jane Fonda, deliciously wicked and funny in the movie (she and TV comedian, **Wanda Sykes**, in her first major film role, are the reasons to watch "Monster-in-Law"), posed before the frenzied pack of photogs as well. A stream of folks, including those queer guys for the straight guys, made a beeline to engage in small talk with J Lo and her Rey-Valera-look-alike husband. Outside, the Peta protesters continued to try and make their sentiments, including a chant that went, "J Lo, fur 'ho," heard by the diva. No word yet on whether J Lo will change her fur wearing and designing ways.

J FONDA and J Lo at last week's party

Protest-free

Three nights earlier, a simpler and protest-free premiere and party was held for "Crash," one of the first good films I've seen so far this year.

Only in Hollywood, folks: Does a pregnant actress who is already feeling an onset of contractions still "do" the premiere red carpet line and the party scene afterwards?

Yes, and I saw how **Bahar Soomekh**, one of the film's many principal cast members, did it with aplomb. In front of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences headquarters in Beverly Hills, Bahar emerged from a limo, preened before the paparazzi, at one point even posing sideways and showing off her belly, all the while smiling alluringly. And did I mention the radiant Bahar's gown was backless?

Inside, **Paul Haggis**, who wrote the Oscar-winning "Million Dollar Baby," introduced "Crash," his directorial debut by quipping, "I want to thank **Clint Eastwood.** Wait a minute. That's the wrong speech." And the film, about how a multi-ethnic cast of characters collides by fate and circumstance, all in a span of 36 hours, began. There is something special about watching films at the Academy's theater—two huge replicas of the Oscar flank the screen, their gold tint glowing faintly in the dark. It's as if there is a subliminal message in the air: "*Pang-Oscar ito, pang-Oscar ito…*"

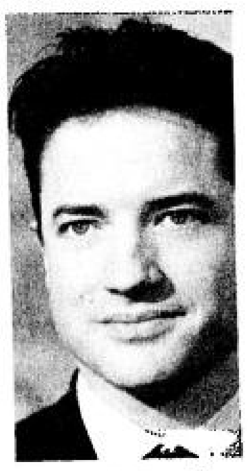
"FUN ho …"

Guests walked down to the lobby to party and schmooze with the cast. Only **Sandra Bullock**, who was out of town filming, was absent. Because of the huge cast, I saw an actor every time I turned: **Don Cheadle, Ryan Philippe** (his wife, **Reese Witherspoon**, who is so much prettier in person, was around but they worked the room separately), **Matt Dillon, Brendan Fraser, Thandie Newton** and **Ludacris.**

PRETTY Reese

Reese and everybody else lined up to congratulate child actress **Ashlyn Sanchez** for her good performance even in such a small role. Also standouts in the film are Ryan, Matt, Thandie, **Michael Pena, Terrence Dashon Howard** (he seems to be the go-to-black-actor du jour—somebody give this talented guy his first major film role, please) and **Loretta Devine.**

As of this writing, no news yet on whether Bahar has given birth.



DASHING Brendan

Bye, Bella

News of record executive **Bella Dy-Tan's** passing brought back memories of my days in Manila as her flack for WEA Records. Whenever a freshly mixed master tape of an OPM album that Bella was excited about arrived, she called me into her office (done in striking apple green—I vividly remember the carpet to this day) and the two of us would listen in silence to the latest of say, the Apo Hiking Society.

And that's how I first heard and fell in love with **Celeste Legaspi** and **Ryan Cayabyab's** "Koleksyon." There, in Bella's room at WEA's office in Sta. Cruz, I got goose bumps listening to this album featuring Celeste and Ryan on piano and no one else. Their rendition of such classics as "Nasaan Ka Irog" and "Madaling Araw" took my breath away. The essence of the Filipino soul is definitely in these masterpieces by **Nicanor Abelardo, Narciso Asistio, Francisco Santiago, Jose Corazon de Jesus, Deogracias Rosario** and **Servando Angeles.** But a CD version inexplicably included three tracks (they are tacked on as the final cuts) from Celeste's commercial "Bagong Plaka, Lumang Kanta" series.

The last time I saw Bella was in the early '90s when she was in town with **Geleen Eugenio** and **Tato Malay.** We celebrated Tato's birthday with drinks and chatted late into the night. When we got home, the phone rang and it was Bella on the other line, wanting to talk some more and to pick my brain on a movie script that she was so enthusiastic about and wanted to produce. We gabbed until dawn.

As a tribute to Bella, whom I'll remember as my lovely lady boss holding a million jangling keys while walking around WEA's office, I played "Koleksyon" while writing this column. I was deeply saddened about the passing of someone so young. But through the albums of Celeste, the Apo, **Gary Valenciano** and many OPM artists, Bella lives on.

To the family Bella left behind—**Jack, Jaclyn, Jeffrey** and the Dy clan—my heartfelt sympathies.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales@yahoo.com.

BAHAR: Pregnant at the premiere

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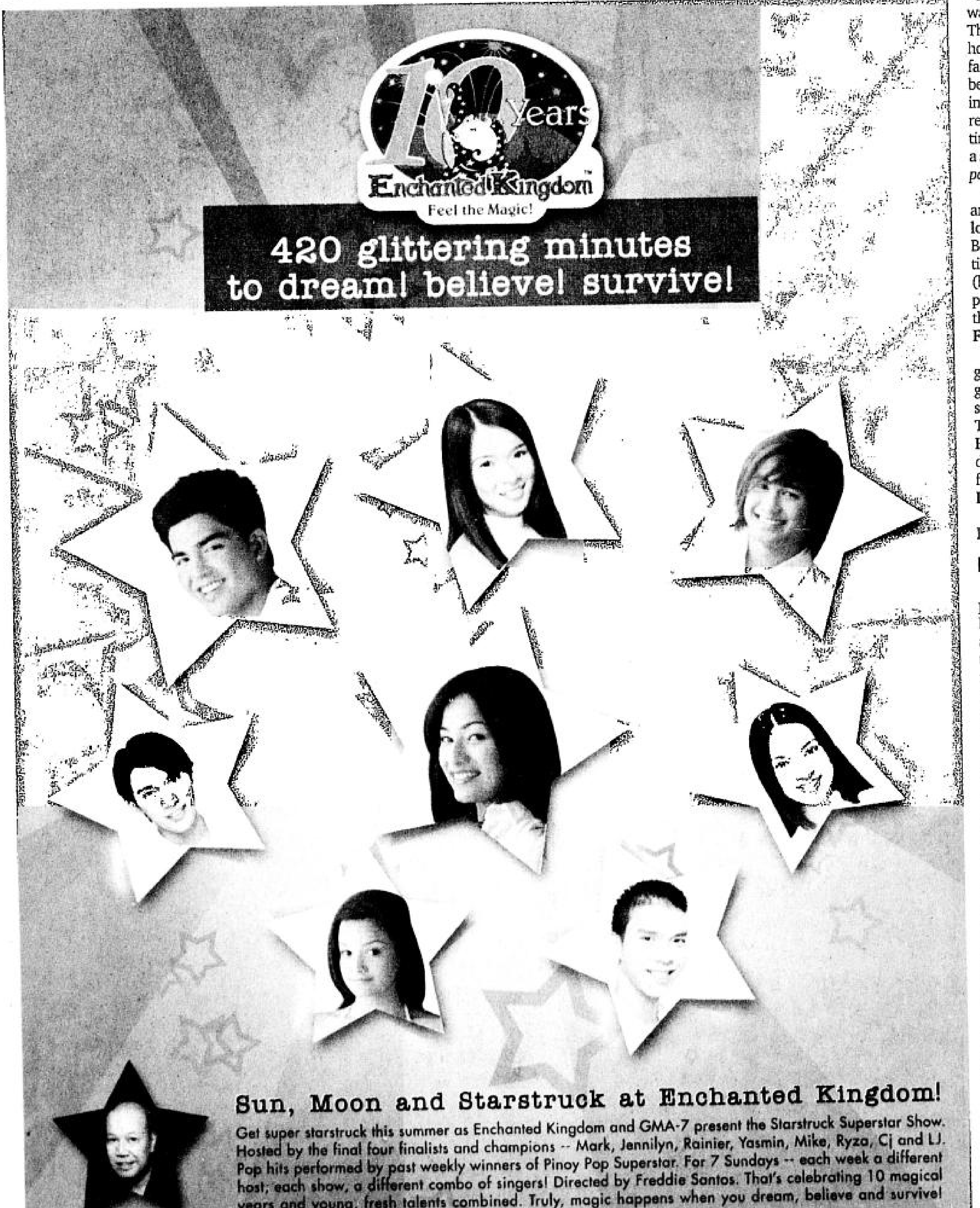

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Peso gets boost from strong OFW remittances

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO strengthened back to the 53-to-$1 level yesterday,on strong inflows from migrant workers and fresh hopes that the bicameral conference committee would pass the value-added tax reform package soon.

The peso closed at 53.96 to $1 yesterday, up from 54.105 finish on Wednesday. Turnover at the Philippine Dealing System amounted to $376.5 million.

Currency traders said the peso had benefited from the remittances from overseas Filipino workers, mostly for tuition fee payments for the next school year, which opens next month.

They said the 84-percent increase int he Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' balance of payment target to a surplus of $852 million was sending bullish signals to the market.

In the meantime, the Monetary Board, in its monthly policy rate setting meet yesterday, kept its rates steady despite pressures from high inflation and the fresh hike in the US Federal Reserve's rates.

BSP Officer in Charge Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said the board voted to keep the overnight borrowing rate at 7 percent and the overnight lending at 9.25 percent.

"Latest forecasts indicate that inflation may be leveling off and is likely to fall within the targeted 4-5 percent range in 2006 in the absence of further adverse shocks," Tetangco said.

The BSP's policy rates were last adjusted upwards in October 2000 but were since reduced steadily. The borrowing rate was kept at 6.75 percent and the lending rate at 9 percent from July 2003 until last month.

For its part, the Fed's Open Market Committee announced Thursday another quarter-of-a-percentage-point hike in its benchmark lending rate to 3 percent. It said future rate hikes would remain "measured," a phrase designed to ease investors' fears of more aggressive increases.

BSP/ B2

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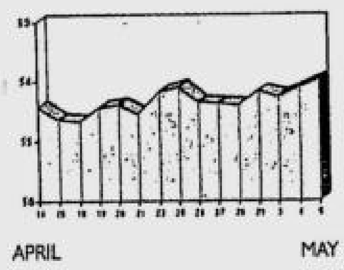
PESO-DOLLAR RATE



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.96 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., May 5, 2005

Y 105.38 = $ 1

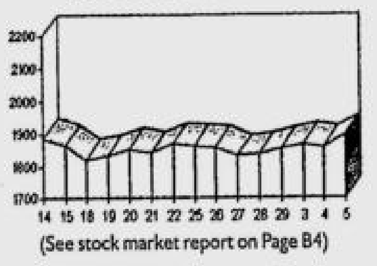
As of 5 p.m., May 2, 2005

GOLD: $431.10-431.60

per ounce Hong Kong, May 5, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks up 1.5%

SHARES yesterday ended higher on strong first-quarter corporate earnings and hopes that long-awaited tax reform may soon be passed.

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index added 27.03 points, or 1.5 percent, to 1,893.20, after rising 0.1 percent Wednesday. Yesterday's rally brings the total index gain to 3.4 percent in five straight sessions.

Traders said the market got a boost from expectations that lawmakers may finally pass much-anticipated amendments to the value-added tax law—the centerpiece of the government's fiscal reform program.

The favorable April inflation report released by the government shortly before the market opened also contributed to the positive sentiment. The data showed consumer prices rising 8.5 percent on year, slower than the 8.6 percent average estimate of economists, and unchanged compared to the March inflation rate.

Among the most actively traded stocks, blue chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. added 0.4 percent to P1,410. During trading, the country's largest telecommunications group reported a 64-percent year- on-year rise in first-quarter net profit to P9.36 billion (US$173 million; euro134 million) on strong contributions from its cellular operations and foreign exchange gains. *AP*

Inflation still at 8.5% in April

By Michelle V. Remo

THE CONTINUED rise in oil prices pushed consumer prices up by 8.5 percent in April from year-ago, the National Statistics Office said yesterday.

This was the same as the rate posted in February and March this year. The January inflation was slightly lower at 8.4 percent. The four-month average of 8.5 percent was way beyond the target of 5 to 6 percent for the whole year.

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) admitted that the rate for the whole year would hover around 8 percent, much higher than the target. However, Neda said the government had no intention to change the target.

Victor Abola, economist from the University of Asia and the Pacific, said the government could not do much to control price increases because these were driven by an external factor (oil price increases).

"What the government could do to somehow temper increases in consumer prices was to ensure that peso remained strong against the US dollar. This way, prices of imported goods will remain stable, he explained.

The NSO report showed that all commodity groups—except food, beverage and tobacco—posted a higher inflation in April compared with their month-ago levels. The inflation rate for clothing rose to 3.8 percent from only 3.7 percent; housing and repairs, 4.8 percent from 4.7 percent; fuel, light and water, 19.7 percent from 18.3 percent; services, 14.4 percent from 14 percent, and miscellaneous items, 3.2 percent from 3.1 percent.

"Price hikes in gasoline, diesel, engine and lubricating oil and the increased charges for electricity and water in selected regions contributed to the upward movement," the NSO said.

The inflation rate for the food, beverage and tobacco grouping declined to 7 percent from 7.2 percent. But on a month-on-month basis, prices of the FBT group accelerated by 0.3 percent in April from 0.2 percent in March.

For food items, alone, the inflation rate dropped to 7.1 percent in April from 7.4 percent in March. The slowdown was due to the decline in the rates for corn, dairy products, fish, meat and miscellaneous food.

However, higher inflation

INFLATION/ B2

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PLDT posts 65% profit increase

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday reported a first quarter net income of P9.36 billion, up 65 percent from year-ago level, despite slower revenue growth and mobile subscriber take-up.

Taking out one-time foreign exchange gains, PLDT profit during the quarter rose by 15 percent to P7 billion from a restated P6.14 billion a year ago. The growth was attributed largely to the sustained strong performance of its wireless units.

Smart Communications Inc. ended the first quarter with P6.77 billion in net income or 45 percent higher than P4.69 billion registered a year ago. Its listed unit Pilipino Telephone Corp. reported a net profit of P2.2 billion against a net loss of P21 million in the first quarter of 2004.

Smart and Piltel added 1.04 million customers, thus ending the first quarter with 20.24 million subscribers. The subscriber base build-up during the quarter was, however, lower than the net quarterly additions of 1.4 to 1.6 million in 2004.

Similar to PLDT's P2.4 billion non-recurring gain, Piltel's profit in the first quarter was boosted by a one-time foreign exchange gain of P700 million.

PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno said that for every P1 adjustment in the exchange rate, the company gains or loses about P2 billion. The peso ended the first quarter at 54.94 to $1 versus 56.28 in end-2004.

The telecom giant, which is 15-percent held by NTT Communications and 24 percent by Hong Kong's First Pacific Co. Ltd., now has about $1.8 billion in debts. The company is planning to reduce its debt substantially in the next two years, such that by the end of 2006, PLDT's obligations would amount to only $1 billion.

With its debt-reduction strategy on track and its cash flow robust, PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said the board decided to increase the dividend pay-out to common shareholders to 30 percent next year, 40 percent in 2006 and 50 percent in 2007. The dividend rates are based on the previous year's earnings.

"The business will grow but probably at a slower pace. I think profits will still grow and cash flow will remain healthy. The value of the company remains strong. Declining revenue is an issue that we have to address," said Pangilinan.

The board, said the chair, would stick to a recurring net profit target of P27 billion for the year against P25.17 billion in 2004.

Pangilinan insisted that PLDT was undervalued at its current share price, believing that the company "should be trading at a higher multiple." PLDT shares closed at P1,410 yesterday, up P5 against the previous day's close.

The company's consolidated revenue eased to P30.25 billion in the first quarter against P30.82 billion a year ago. Wireless revenue managed to grow by 14 percent but sales of the fixed-line business dropped 2 percent.

Nazareno said he was not worried as he projected that Smart would end the second quarter with revenue at par with the first quarter's P17.4 billion.

SBC income up 41% in 1st quarter

SECURITY Bank Corp. reported a net income of P265 million for the first quarter of the year, up by 41 percent from year-ago's P188 million.

The strong first quarter performance sustained the growth of the bank's prior year net income of P757 million, which was 50 percent higher than the restated 2003 net income of P506 million.

The first quarter income translates to a return on average equity of 9.8 percent, a significant increase from 7.4 percent in the comparative period last year. Underpinning the strong earnings performance is a solid 71-percent increase in pre-provision operating profit brought about by a 36-percent growth in revenue while operating expenses were kept under control.

Alberto S. Villarosa, Security Bank president and chief executive officer, said the growth in revenue was driven by the interest differential business arising from business volume growth, coupled with an advantageous deployment of earnings assets and management of funding costs. The solid growth in revenue is on track with the bank's three-year strategic plan.

Deposits reached P60 billion at the end of the quarter, representing a 22-percent increase from P49 billion in March 2004. The growth in deposits was largely due to a 26-percent increase in the bank's low-cost deposit funds. The investment securities portfolio reached P43 billion for the quarter from P35 billion at year-end.

Jollibee Q1 earnings fall 6.2%

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FAST FOOD giant Jollibee Foods Corp. said its net earnings dipped 6.2 percent to P358.3 million in the first quarter from year-ago's P382.1 million due to higher cost of operations.

In a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), Jollibee said its system-wide sales, covering sales of both company-owned outlets and franchised stores, rose 14.6 percent to P9 billion this year from P7.8 billion last year.

Revenue was also higher by 13 percent to P6.5 billion from P5.8 billion in the same quarter last year.

Tony Tan Caktiong, Jollibee chair and chief executive officer, said he was worried over the short-term effect of high inflation rate on the company's sales volume and profit. He, however, added he was expecting stronger business performance in the long-term.

"We continue to be encouraged by the performance of our Yonghe King business in China. We're also pleased with the strong start of our new Chowking store in Indonesia and the recovery of Jollibee business in Vietnam, where sales grew by 46.1 percent in the first quarter," Tan Caktiong said.

In the Philippines, where Jollibee operates a total of 1,072 stores, its sales grew by only about half of the growth rate in the first quarter of 2004.

The lower sales growth was blamed largely on inflation pressures on consumer spending.

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FAIRVIEW AUCTION
27 NAPOLI-BELFAST AVE., NORTH FAIRVIEW, Q.C. (BACK OF SM CITY FAIRVIEW)
(1) 25 KVA DENYO SOUNDPROOF; (1) 34KVA PERKINS; (1) 60KVA CATERPILLAR; (1) BOOM TRUCK W/ TELESCOPIC CRANE; (1) MITSUBISHI CANTER DROPSIDE; '97 CHRYSLER TOWN & COUNTRY; COMPUTERS; FURNITURES; FIXTURES; FOOD CARTS; ICE CRUSHER; S/S CHILLER; S/S MIXER; S/S OVEN; S/S CAKE CHILLER; GRANITE CAKE CHILLER; CHEST TYPE FREEZER; RESTAURANT TABLES & CHAIRS; HOUSEHOLD ITEMS; DESK; LOCKERS; CONFERENCE TABLE; CABINETS; BOOKSHELVES; COPIER; EXECUTIVE CHAIRS; GLASSWARE; DECORATIVE ITEMS; LITTLE TYKES PLAYHOUSE AND MANY MORE...
VIEWING DATES: MAY 5-6, 2005, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
AUCTION DATE: MAY 7, 2005 (SAT) 10:30 AM
ON-SITE ANTIQUE AUCTION
52 KATIPUNAN AVE., WHITE PLAINS, Q.C.
DINING TABLES; APARADOR; COMMODAS; LATERAS; ALTAR TABLES; DRESSERS; JEWELRY; CHEST OF DRAWERS; CHINA CABINETS; DIVIDERS; DINING CHAIRS; ACCENT TABLES; DAYBEDS; LALIQUE CRYSTALS; ENGLISH PORCELAINS; JAPANESE SATSUMAS; MIRRORS; CHINESE SNUFF BOTTLES; IVORY CARVINGS; PAINTINGS; FRAME ART WORKS; MEMORABILIAS; COCA COLA OLD BOTTLES; OLD RADIO; COLLECTIBLE BOOKS; MOLAVE GARDEN SETS; HOME APPLIANCES AND MANY MORE...
VIEWING DATES: MAY 6-7, 2005, 9:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M.
AUCTION DATE: MAY 8, 2005 (SUN) 10:30 AM
WE BUY AND ACCEPT CONSIGNMENT
721-3233; (0919) 643-8362; 299-8333

Inflation still at 8.5% ...

From page B1

rates were registered for rice, 6 percent from 4.9 percent; eggs, 3.8 percent from 2.5 percent, and fruits and vegetables, 7.9 percent from 7.4 percent.

Abola agreed with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas that inflation was still caused largely by supply-related problems rather than demand-side factors. This was why it was not necessary for the BSP to tighten its monetary policy at the moment.

"The BSP should tighten monetary policy if loans are expanding at a fast rate. But for now, loans are only growing by about 5 to 6 percent, so there is no need for the BSP to increase interest rates for the time being," he said.

Abola said there was no pressure for the BSP to tighten its monetary policy at the moment despite the decision of the US Federal Reserve to increase its own rate to 3 percent. He said the interest rate differential between the United States and the Philippines was still within a comfortable level.

The BSP closely watches its interest rate differential with that of the US Fed to avoid capital flight, or movement of investments away from the Philippines. Capital flight may occur when interest rate offered in a more risky environment like the Philippines become close with what is offered in a more stable economy like the United States.

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Tel. Nos. (044) 766-2974
(044) 673-3559

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Domingo Building III
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Cor. Dela Rosa Sts. Makati City
Tel. Nos 893-1712, 812-7023
893-7078

Guadalupe
2168 R. Magsaysay Avenue
Guadalupe Nuevo
Makati City
Tel Nos 882-2321, 882-2328
750-6696

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Tel. Nos 746-6059
531-7517

Baclaran
250 Quirino Avenue
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551-1984

Cebu
G/F Fortune Life Building
Osmena Boulevard, Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 254-5355
(032) 416-8138

Binondo
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Binondo, Manila
Tel. Nos. 243-1723, 242-9583
244-4351

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526-5730, 526-2760

Paco
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524-4838, 524-4832

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2350 Taft Avenue
Pasay City
Tel Nos 804-0420
804-0428, 804-0427

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 5, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.5	3.5	24,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	26	27.5	26	27.5	2,328,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	49	47.5	48.5	1,883,500
China Banking Corp.	695	720	695	720	1,720
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.7	0.72	0.7	0.71	3,840,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	47	47.5	46.5	47.5	116,700
International Exch. Bank	18	18.25	18	18.25	54,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32	33	32	32.5	987,300
Philippine National Bank	31	31.5	30.5	31	65,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26.5	26	26	70,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2500	2500	2500	2500	470
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	260,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1670	1660	1660	1660	1,570
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.25	14.75	14.25	14.75	20,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.12	1.14	1.12	1.14	4,890,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	820	820	820	820	42,320
Ipeople Inc.	3.8	4	3.8	3.9	158,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.046	0.05	0.046	0.05	3,400,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2	2.04	2	2.04	53,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,171,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1405	1415	1400	1410	52,630
Ivantage Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.018	11,800,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	17	17	16.5	16.75	19,100
Manila Electric Co. B	23.25	23.75	23.25	23.75	303,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	5.9	6.1	5.9	6.1	3,734,000
Petron Corp.	3.4	3.55	3.4	3.5	3,938,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.8	1.8	411,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.5	7.7	7.5	7.7	466,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	30,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.6	0.63	0.6	0.63	1,730,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.62	300,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.15	3	3.1	1,886,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	8,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	34	34	33.5	33.5	66,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	29	29.5	29	29.5	708,000
RFM Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	140,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58	57.5	58	53,500
San Miguel Corp. B	83.5	84	83.5	84	39,600
Universal Robina Corp.	12	12.5	12	12.5	238,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	500,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	7.7	7.7	7.1	7.7	21,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.0085	47,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	10,000,000
Ayala Corp.	7	7	7	7	4,892,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.43	0.47	0.43	0.47	380,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.75	4.75	4.7	4.7	108,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.034	0.031	0.033	21,900,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2	2.04	2	2.04	647,000
APC Group Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.3	0.3	2,440,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	15,000,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.98	1.02	0.97	1.02	18,060,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	310,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.21	0.225	0.21	0.22	1,270,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.35	0.36	0.33	0.34	9,630,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.7	2.6	2.6	1,247,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.043	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.3	1.34	1.3	1.34	250,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	8	8.1	8	8.1	200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	44.5	47	44.5	46.5	1,423,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.085	0.0875	0.085	0.085	2,900,000
House Of Investments Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	458,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	20,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	17,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	500,000
Medco Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.32	1.42	1.32	1.4	9,101,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.38	.36	.38	96,560,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.28	0.29	.28	.29	660,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	150,000
SM Investments Corp.	250	250	249	250	477,220
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.55	3.65	3.55	3.65	27,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.205	0.215	0.205	0.205	6,070,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	3,600,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	40,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	3,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.11	0.115	0.11	0.115	1,820,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.22	1.22	11,057,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.89	0.91	0.89	0.9	580,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.52	1,764,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	16,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	500,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	14	14.75	14	14.25	353,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7	7	7	7	30,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.8	8	7.8	7.9	7,198,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.91	120,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,560,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.235	0.26	0.235	0.26	1,100,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	60,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.38	16,170,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.69	1.12	0.69	1.12	11,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.42	1.5	1.42	1.48	8,357,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	300,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	410,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.85	5	4.85	5	545,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	50,000
SM Development Corp.	1.6	1.68	1.6	1.68	94,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.3	4,612,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	35,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	4.9	4.95	4.8	4.9	98,000
Benguet Corp. A	9.7	10.5	9.7	10.25	485,000
Benguet Corp. B	42	49.5	42	48	5,300
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3.6	3.9	3.6	3.85	140,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	550,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.33	0.35	0.33	0.35	9,940,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.015	3,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.021	44,900,000
Omico Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	137,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.91	0.94	0.91	0.92	790,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1	1.08	1	1.08	5,715,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	32.5	33	32	32.5	335,400
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0048	0.005	0.0048	0.005	4,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.005	0.004	0.005	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	34,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	2,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	10,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.175	0.18	0.17	0.17	10,830,000

CURRENCIES

May 5, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.772201	1.000000	54.1010
Japan	Yen	0.007392	0.009572	0.5179
United Kingdom	Pound	1.469961	1.903600	102.9867
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.099076	0.128304	6.9414
Switzerland	Franc	0.648091	0.839278	45.4058
Canada	Dollar	0.619943	0.802826	43.4337
Singapore	Dollar	0.472583	0.611995	33.1095
Australia	Dollar	0.600374	0.777484	42.0627
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.048495	2.652801	143.5192
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.205909	0.266652	14.4261
Brunei	Dollar	0.471141	0.610128	33.0085
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000105	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.019549	0.025316	1.3696
UAE	Dirham	0.210260	0.272287	14.7310
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.295000	70.0608
Argentina	Peso	0.266736	0.345423	18.6877
Brazil	Real	0.311812	0.403796	21.8458
Denmark	Kroner	0.134343	0.173974	9.4122
India	Rupee	0.017792	0.023041	1.2465
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.203238	0.263193	14.2390
Mexico	New Peso	0.070456	0.091241	4.9362
New Zealand	Dollar	0.564846	0.731475	39.5735
Korea	Won	0.000776	0.001005	0.0544
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024910	0.032258	1.7452

BSP keeps policy ...

From page B1

Its assessment was unchanged from the Fed's March 22 meeting which stated that long-term inflationary pressures "remained well contained" even while admitting that higher energy prices were starting to slow spending growth.

"Authorities also have enough flexibility to keep monetary policy settings unchanged for the time being. Members of the MB believe that the recent policy rate increase should be given time to fully work its way into the economy and exert its impact on inflation expectations," Tetangco said.

Given that demand pressures continued to be softened by sluggish employment conditions, moderate capacity utilization and generally modest credit demand, Tetangco said significant monetary tightening was not warranted.

Tetangco said the board, likewise, recognized that the term spreads or the differentials between the long-term and short-term interest rates had narrowed in recent months, indicating that long-term inflation expectations remained "anchored."

The MB recognizes that one key risk to inflation is the likelihood of declining interest rate differentials and possible adverse shifts in investor sentiment due to delays in needed tax measures.

Testing the Pacific waters

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

CAUGHT in a consumer tempest, Pacific Plans has agreed to meet the public tomorrow in a forum at the Philippine International Convention Center starting at 1 p.m. It was not clear whether taipan Alfonso Yuchengco or his heiress-apparent, Helen Y. Dee, would be there in person to answer questions.

In any case, the lynch-mob atmosphere would presumably have died down with the announcement of a P250-million "tuition support" that the taipan has committed to cover the first semester obligations of Pacific Plans to its open-ended plan holders.

The key AY advisers are hoping that the P250-million support would eventually lead to the Yuchengcos making Pacific Plans whole again, especially since the game plan of isolating the Pacific Plans "cancer" did exactly the opposite and even made vulnerable the entire AY empire to text rumor and even Internet attacks.

According to records with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Pacific Plans reported an actuarial reserve liability of P10.3 billion in 2003, and, after spinning off the good assets, ended 2004 with a much lower P2.65 billion in actuarial reserve liability.

On the plus side, Pacific Plans, according to the rehabilitation petition the company filed,. had P4.5 billion in Napocor 2010 bonds, but only P37 million in cash and P15 million in shares of stocks left as of end-2004.

While the country's first pre-need company has on paper enough near-cash assets to wipe out its P2.651-billion ARL, it clearly does not have the actual cash to meet tuition obligations from now until 2010, when the Napocor bonds shall mature.

The Yuchengco announcement did not say from which pocket the P250 million would be taken, but on the basis of the financial statements of the two publicly listed AY companies, the taipan would need to sell off a few good assets if he would have to have adequate liquidity line, and also improve his bank's financial ratios.

For one, the taipan's Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. is already bumping its Dosri ceiling.

Moreover, RCBC has still to receive Bangko Sentral approval for its application to extend to 10 years instead of seven the amortization of P3.6 billion in additional allowance for doubtful accounts that the bank has to provide to cover to its disastrous Bankard acquisition.

In the meantime, to improve its financial ratios, RCBC had to resort to some creative accounting techniques, a fact that did not escape its external auditors.

"Had the Parent Company (meaning RCBC) fully recognized the required allowance for probable losses (amounting to P1.96 billion) as part of current operations in 2004 in accordance with Philippine GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles), the Group's net income of P1.38 billion would have been reduced by P1.32 billion," SGV said in a 2004 footnote.

The good news is that the RCBC Group has more than P12.4 billion worth of repossessed real estate assets in its inventory that it could now dispose of in an improving market.

But that might be easier said than done, especially in this small town teeming with interlocking families and relationships.

For instance, the RCBC Group already had a buyer lined up for the unfinished Jaka II building on Ayala Avenue, when, if the market grapevine is to be believed, it had to scuttle the deal following protests from a VIP client.

Money-go-round

- THE SUPREME Court has rebuffed Donald Kwok, a son-in-law of hotelier and carpet manufacturer Patricio L. Lim, in his demand to PL Lim's Philippine Carpet Manufacturing Corp. to pay his claim of more than P7 million in accumulated vacation and sick leave credits.

Kwok, who retired as chief operating officer of the carpet company in 1996, fought his father-in-law and the company all the way to the high court to press his claim.

The National Labor Relations Commission had earlier ruled that Kwok, like other top management officials of the carpet maker, were not entitled to vacation and sick leave credits.

- THE CAMPOSES and the United Laboratories Group will celebrate as one big happy family the 60th year of Unilab at the World Trade Center tomorrow.

Heard through the grapevine

THE STOCK exchange, frustrated at failing to collect even a centavo in fines from the recalcitrant Banco Filipino, has decided to continue the indefinite trading suspension of the bank shares.

The thrift bank has not filed any financial report with the stock exchange since 2002. Worse, the bank has not held any board meeting since last year.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

BIR collected P21.34B in taxes last April 15

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue said it collected P21.34 billion in taxes last April 15, its highest in a single day.

BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said the tax collection last April 15 was 43.4 percent higher than the P14.77 billion it received on April 15, 2004.

Parayno said the record collection reflected the increase in the income tax remitted by businesses and self-employed individuals.

The P21.34-billion collection for April 15 brought the BIR's collection for the first two weeks of April up to P47.1 billion.

Parayno said the April 15 tax take made the revenue agency more confident of meeting its P62-billion collection target for the whole month.

"The increase (in tax collection) came mostly from voluntary filing. Taxpayers who file their ITRs on April 15 are mostly business income earners and corporations," he said in a press briefing yesterday.

Income taxes of salaried individuals, which are withheld by their employers, are usually remitted before the deadline, he explained.

BIR Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said the high tax collection last month was attributed to the government's ongoing campaign for tax compliance.

She cited the RATE (run after tax evaders) program, under which the government files tax evasion charges every week against known businesses or celebrities to discourage tax evasion.

Henares also cited the issuance of Executive Order No. 398, which required the submission of income tax returns by all businesses wanting to supply goods or services to the government.

The BIR official also mentioned the circular issued by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas requiring the submission of ITRs before securing bank loans.

The BIR said the programs were effective in impressing upon the public's mind that the government was serious about changing the culture of tax evasion, and holding tax evaders criminally liable.

The BIR, which accounts for over 60 percent of the national government's revenue collection, is hard pressed to improve its tax collection this year to help reduce the gaping budget gap, which stood at P187 billion last year.

The Department of Finance, the BIR's head agency, said the government wanted to reduce the deficit to P180 billion, or even lower, this year through the implementation of several legislative measures.

These include the value-added reform plan, which would complement the administrative measures already in place.

The DOF expressed confidence Congress would pass the VAT bill, although it was still uncertain whether DOF's version of the bill would be approved by the bicameral conference committee.

The DOF wants the VAT rate raised from 10 to 12 percent, a version approved by the Lower House but bucked by the Senate.

Asian finance ministers to boost currency swap agreements size

ISTANBUL, Turkey—Top Asian finance ministers pledged to boost by up to 100 percent the size of currency swap agreements designed to cushion Asian economies from the instability that helped trigger the region's 1997-98 economic crisis.

Finance ministers from regional powerhouses Japan, China and South Korea agreed to the measures with their counterparts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or Asean, on the sidelines of a conference of the Asian Development Bank.

The ministers on Wednesday called on members to boost by up to 100 percent the current network of 16 bilateral currency swaps, which total $39.5 billion.

The members also agreed to adopt "a collective decision-making mechanism" for implementing swaps "as a first step to multilateralization," according to a joint statement issued after their meeting.

Under the existing arrangement, known as the Chiang Mai initiative after the Thai city where it was first agreed upon in 2000, Asian nations can borrow dollars from others in the group—principally Japan, Korea and China—to cover short-term needs and stabilize currencies during market turmoil.

The Asean members are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

"Member countries favored an enhancement of up to 100 percent increase of the existing individual arrangements, while noting that the size could be flexibly decided by bilateral negotiations," the statement said.

Since the agreements were set, no country has needed to take advantage of them due to the robust expansion of Asian economies.

The ministers noted the region's strong growth last year and said that this year they expected "solid, though moderated, growth." They reiterated their commitment to implement structural reforms and enact policies that would promote domestic growth. *AP*

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1. P. Ongking, B. Ngo, S.Y. Tan & R. Gan
Arranque Branch

Winners of ERICSSON P910i Cellphones
1. MICROVAN INC.
Caloocan Branch
2. Leung, Alex and Uy Sio An &/or Chan Maria K.
Tarlac Branch
3. Uy, Edmund Jalandoni
Asuncion Branch
4. Chong Lee Sau Chi
Sto. Cristo Branch
5. Ang, Donato
Binondo Business Center
6. Diez, Teodoro V. &/or Catane Teresita Diez
Cebu-F. Ramos Branch
7. Maderazo, Ervilito Mansueto
Makati Main Branch
8. Jenny's Cakes & Pastries
Masangkay Branch
9. Loo, Mariano &/or Carmen C.
Binondo Business Center
10. Ngan, Charlie &/or Ngan, Evangeline
T. Alonzo Branch
11. Durias Emelyn Undik
Cebu-Magallanes Branch
12. Dy Ronald S.
La Union Branch
13. Ong, Luz
Ongpin Branch
14. MG Forex Corporation
Pasong Tamo Citiland Branch
15. Watson, David Ronald
SM-Fairview Branch
16. Tenchavez, Paulino &/or Luzviminda T.
Libis Branch
17. Cañete, Letecia Dy
Tacloban Branch
18. Acaban, Nario Solayao
Kalentong Branch
19. Cabigon, Sally Uy &/or Alejandro &/or Cabigon, Warren &/or Winston
Tacloban Branch
20. Pinnacle Technologies Inc.
Tutuban Center Branch

Winners of SONY DVD PLAYERS
1. Summit One Condominium Corporation
Shaw-Summit One Branch
2. Chan, Romeo Velasco &/or Chan, Ruby Rosa
Pasig-Manggahan Branch
3. GY Industrial Mill Supply Corporation
Binondo Business Center
4. Moneyline Lending Investors, Inc.
Tordesillas-Salcedo Branch
5. Co Han Gui &/or Consuelo Velasco
Ongpin Branch
6. Dy Kok Chun &/or Albert Lee &/or Lee Ching Pue &/or Julian Serrano Li &/or Jose Dee
Masangkay Branch
7. Derecho, Rodolfo P. &/or Derecho Cecilia
Bonifacio-Balintawak Branch
8. Winstone Industrial Manufacturing Corp
Binondo Business Center
9. Bayona Jorge D. &/or Bayona Carmen M.
Legazpi City Branch
10. Solimco Hardware & Auto Supply
La Union Branch
11. Uy, Henley Tolosa
Ormoc City Branch
12. Glam Holdings Corporation
Makati Main Branch
13. Yu, Ang Yong Tan
Greenhills-Ortigas Branch
14. Chua Godofredo
General Santos Branch
15. Choa Mun Fai
Tutuban Center Branch
16. Uy, Wong Kieng Tieng Tan &/or Ong, Jerman Uy, Wong Kieng Tour
Sto. Cristo Branch
17. Reyes, Mona Liza &/or Goh, Ramon
Quezon Avenue Branch
18. Mocon, Catalino Jr. Mutuc
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Napocor raises ₱5B from bond offering

By Michelle V. Remo

THE STATE-RUN National Power Corp. sold over P5 billion worth of bonds to the domestic market yesterday, thus helping the heavily indebted firm partially cover its financial obligations for the year.

There was healthy appetite for Napocor bonds as both the five and seven-year bonds were oversubscribed.

Tenders for the five-year Napocor bonds reached P13.941 billion, way above its debt offering of only P3 billion.

On the other hand, the seven-year bonds got P7.05 billion worth of bids, more than the original debt offering of P2 billion.

The five-year bonds fetched a rate of 9.125 percent, while the seven-year bonds were priced at 10.375 percent.

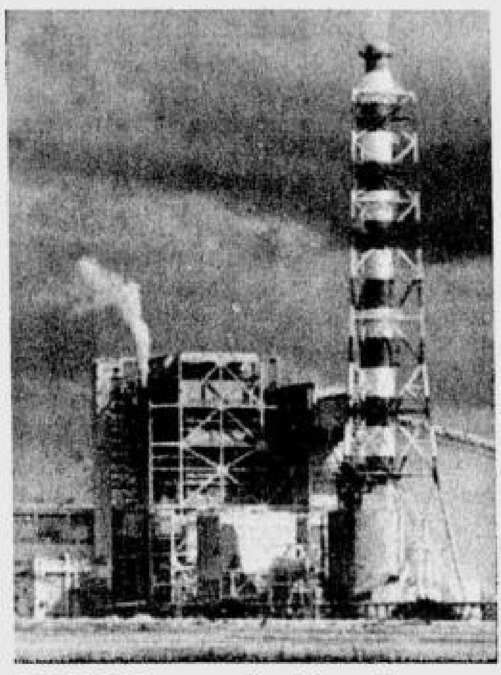
Yesterday's Napocor bond auction showed that the power firm, perceived to be a high risk for investors, was steadily winning back market confidence.

Finance Undersecretary Nieves Osorio, in charge of monitoring the finances of government-owned and -controlled corporations, said the pricing of the Napocor bonds was well within the government's target.

The coupon rates for both the five and seven-year Napocor bonds were lower than the 11.5 percent recorded for the government's regular five- and seven-year Treasury bonds, which were auctioned off last month.

Napocor raised a total of P5.061 billion from both the five- and seven-year bonds.

It only accepted P2.062 billion worth of bids for the five-year bonds, and P3 billion for the seven-year bonds.



INVESTORS snap up bonds issued by state-run National Power Corp.

Nonito Bernardo Jr., vice president for finance of PSALM, said Napocor only decided to accept P2.061 billion from the five-year bonds, out of the planned P3 billion, to send the signal that the government would not allow rates for Napocor debt paper to go up too high.

The more than P5 billion raised from the bond issue, and the P8.3 billion to be generated from the recent 36-centavo power rate hike, would reduce the power firm's financing requirement to only about $500 million.

Groups take firm stand on agricultural tariff hikes

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

LAST Friday, April 29, two related events occurred in two different parts of the country.

In Cebu, the National Vegetable Council took a strong position on the ongoing comprehensive tariff review by the Tariff Commission and the Cabinet level Tariff Related Matters committee.

Chair Edwin Andot said: "While waiting for the promised safety nets, there should be no further reduction in tariff rates. For the appropriate products, tariff rates should be increased, but within our World Trade Organization (WTO) bound rates."

The 500 vegetable producers who attended the National Vegetable Congress that afternoon also unanimously approved this position.

On the same day in Quezon City, the agricultural committee of the Fair Trade Alliance (FTA), under the leadership of former Sen. Wigberto Tañada, took the same stand.

On tariff increases, they specified the vegetables whose tariff rates should be increased to the WTO bound rate of 40 percent: cauliflower, broccoli, potatoes, celery, lettuce, green and red pepper and mushrooms.

The bound rate refers to the maximum tariff that a country can impose under the rules of the WTO.

The applied rate, on the other hand, is the actual tariff rate imposed on specific products.

Most countries' applied rates are close to, or at the same level as, the bound rate in an attempt to protect the local farmers.

For the Philippines, is it wise to increase agricultural tariffs when this goes against the current liberalization trend?

To answer this, we must ask three additional questions.

Is it fair?

Free trade does not necessarily mean fair trade.

In the WTO, when developed countries demand that developing countries bring down their tariffs to lower levels similar to those of the developing countries, they argue that this merely levels the playing field.

But protection is not limited to tariffs alone.

When a developed country has low tariffs but large subsidies, the total protection they give their products far exceeds the protection given by a developing country with higher tariffs but very small subsidies.

This is especially true for the Philippines.

In the July 2004 WTO Ministerial meeting in Geneva, there were unfounded feelings of victory when developed countries agreed to a 20-percent cut in their maximum subsidy levels.

A closer examination showed that these levels were even higher than their actual year 2000 subsidy levels.

For example, the United States now has a maximum subsidy level of $38.1 billion while the European Union has $91.1 billion.

The Philippines' subsidy level is only $0.3 billion.

It is clearly fair and very justifiable that we protect ourselves with higher tariff rates to compensate for our lack of subsidies.

Is it allowed?

At the November 2004 "Asia Pacific Conference on Trade: Contributing to Growth, Poverty Reduction, and Human Development" sponsored by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Malaysia, NGO representatives from 11 countries agreed with the following position coordinated by the Philippine Alyansa Agrikultura representative: "Higher tariffs ... should be allowed to be used against export and domestic subsidies of developed countries. This protects employment and also helps ensure food security.

"Since WTO allows countries to increase tariff rates to WTO bound rates, institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund should not pressure countries into not taking this option by making this a condition for loans and assistance."

Wrongly determined tariffs that are lower than the WTO bound rates are therefore not the fault of WTO, but our own.

We must therefore correct our mistakes. We also hope that the international financial institutions support, rather than reject, this view, if they wish to see a stronger economy that can better pay back their loans.

Compared to Thailand, our applied rates are well below our bound rates.

For agriculture, Thailand's applied 29-percent tariff rate is close to its WTO bound rate of 35.5 percent.

In comparison, the Philippines unilaterally decided on an applied 8 percent rate, well below our 34.7-percent bound rate.

Ironically, we did this even with our agricultural support levels being far less than Thailand's.

Is it needed?

That increased tariffs are badly needed today is proven by many indicators.

In 1992, for every $100 we exported, we imported $84. But for the last seven years, for every $100 we exported, we imported $147. We definitely need higher tariffs if we want food security.

An example is the case of broccoli.

Data from the Benguet Vegetable Growers' Association shows that at the current 7 percent tariff rate, imported broccoli sells at P10.97. Our domestic total cost is P18.25.

We need a higher tariff rate to provide adequate protection for our broccoli farmers.

The request is that the 7-percent rate be increased only to the WTO bound rate of 40 percent.

This rate is still low, but it conforms to our international trade agreements.

And it can still encourage our farmers to be more productive and compete with imports, rather than the current 7 percent rate, which totally discourages production.

Conclusion

In the ongoing comprehensive tariff review, it is hoped that our government officials generally stop agricultural tariff reductions. In addition, they should correct previous mistakes by increasing tariffs for the appropriate and justifiable agricultural products.

Tanya Lat and Arlene Santos of the Akbayan Citizen's Action Party said it well in their position paper: "Although by no means the only solution, raising tariffs on agricultural products will help ensure the economic survival of this sector by leveling the playing field vis-a-vis importers, and buying much needed time to improve the sectors' productivity, efficiency, and competitiveness."

(The author is the chair of Agriwatch, a private sector initiative; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for agriculture, and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil @yahoo.com or telefax 8516635)

DESPITE GROWING U.S. SUPPLY

Crude oil prices rise above $50 a barrel

NEW YORK—Oil prices climbed above $50 a barrel Wednesday despite rising US inventories of crude oil and gasoline, a counterintuitive market response that analysts chalked up to technical trading and speculation about future supply tightness.

Light, sweet crude for June delivery rose 63 cents to settle at $50.13 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, bouncing off an intraday low of $48.80. Gasoline futures rose 0.7 cent to close at $1.4664 a gallon, rebounding from an intraday low of $1.42. Heating oil futures climbed 1.85 cent to $1.24545 a gallon, coming off of an earlier low at $1.42.

"It's been a real roller coaster," said Andrew Lebow, senior vice president at brokerage Man Financial Inc., in New York.

Energy futures fell immediately after the government released its weekly supply data, but they reversed course, Lebow said, as a result of short-covering, in which traders who had banked on even lower prices were forced to cover their bets, pushing prices higher.

There is also a view in the market—not shared by Lebow— that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will not be able to keep up with an anticipated surge in demand later this year.

"Fourth quarter demand has become a preoccupation of the market," Lebow said.

In London, Brent crude futures rose 45 cents to $50.97 per barrel on the International Petroleum Exchange.

The latest petroleum supply snapshot from the U.S. Department of Energy showed a 2.6 million barrel increase in crude oil last week, bringing the nation's inventories to 327 million barrels, or 9 percent above year ago levels.

The supply of gasoline grew by 2.2 million barrels to 213.5 million barrels, or 6 percent above year ago levels.

"The US gasoline market is showing marked signs of improvement for consumers," the Energy Department said in its weekly analysis.

Indeed, while retail gasoline prices are about 22 percent higher than a year ago at $2.24 per gallon, Nymex gasoline futures are trading about 25 cents below their April 1 peak, auguring lower prices at the pump.

Oil analyst Tim Evans at.IFR Energy Services in New York said there is plenty of crude oil and gasoline in the market, and that traders and speculators are downplaying these supply-demand fundamentals. He said what's keeping oil prices high is "a near-religious belief that although the market is not tight now, it will be later."

"Where is this tightness they're talking about?" Evans said.

Energy Department data show that gasoline demand rose by 0.8 percent in April, compared with a year ago. That's down from the 1.7 percent increase registered in March and a signal to Evans and others that motorists may be driving less as a result of the high pump prices.

Crude futures remain about 28 percent above year ago levels even after falling sharply from their intraday high of $58.28 in early April. Oil prices would need to surpass $90 a barrel to exceed the inflation-adjusted high set in 1980.

The recent downward pressure on prices has coincided with evidence of slower economic growth in the United States.

Last week the Commerce Department said the economy grew at an annual rate of just 3.1 percent in the first quarter, the slowest pace of expansion in two years, in part because of high energy prices and reduced spending by consumers and businesses.

On Tuesday, the US Federal Reserve raised interest rates to curb spending as overall consumer prices spiked by 0.6 percent in March, driven by expensive gasoline and energy products. The move could further slow growth in the world's largest economy, reducing demand for oil, traders said. *AP*

PRULINK	PRU LIFE U.K.	
Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week May 03, 2005	Last Week April 26, 2005
Bond Fund - Peso	1.23254	1.22899
Managed Fund - Peso	1.32741	1.32527
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.0952	1.0944

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

INSULAR LIFE — UNIT PRICES (in Php)

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder	April 29, 2005	April 25, 2005
Fixed Income Fund	1.018251	1.017055
Balanced Fund	1.001045	1.002158
Equity Fund	0.962047	0.968397

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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Foreign bank says peso strong enough against inflation

INFLATION pressures have remained strong this year, but the relative strength of the peso has been a compensating factor.

This was the highlight of the latest global research on the Philippines, entitled "The Case for Staying Ahead of the Curve," by UK-based Standard Chartered Bank.

Regional economist Mike Moran who penned the research from Hong Kong said that although the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas hiked policy rates by 25 basis points last April, there was little reason to wait to tighten them anew, as inflation data continues to hedge higher at 8.5 percent year on year in March.

The Standard Chartered Bank research cited key factors to account for a difficulty in meeting the new inflation targets of 7.0 – 7.3 percent as announced last week. These include rising oil prices, power rates hike, and labor groups' clamor for minimum wage adjustment. The El Niño weather patterns as affecting the agricultural sector and prices was also factored in.

However, the Bank report maintained that the stability of the peso has important implications for the government. For one, the report claimed that the inevitability of rising interest rates means domestic yields will trend higher. Moreover, high liquidity levels have actually helped push yields lower in the first quarter although risks for debt servicing lie to the upside.

The Bank concluded that with half of government debt being foreign currency denominated, a stronger peso could provide a handy offset in foreign debt servicing when domestic yields move higher.

Standard Chartered is one of the world's most international banks, with employees representing 80 nationalities.

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Standard Chartered Bank is 133 years in the Philippines and is the first foreign bank in the country.

Wed 13th 00
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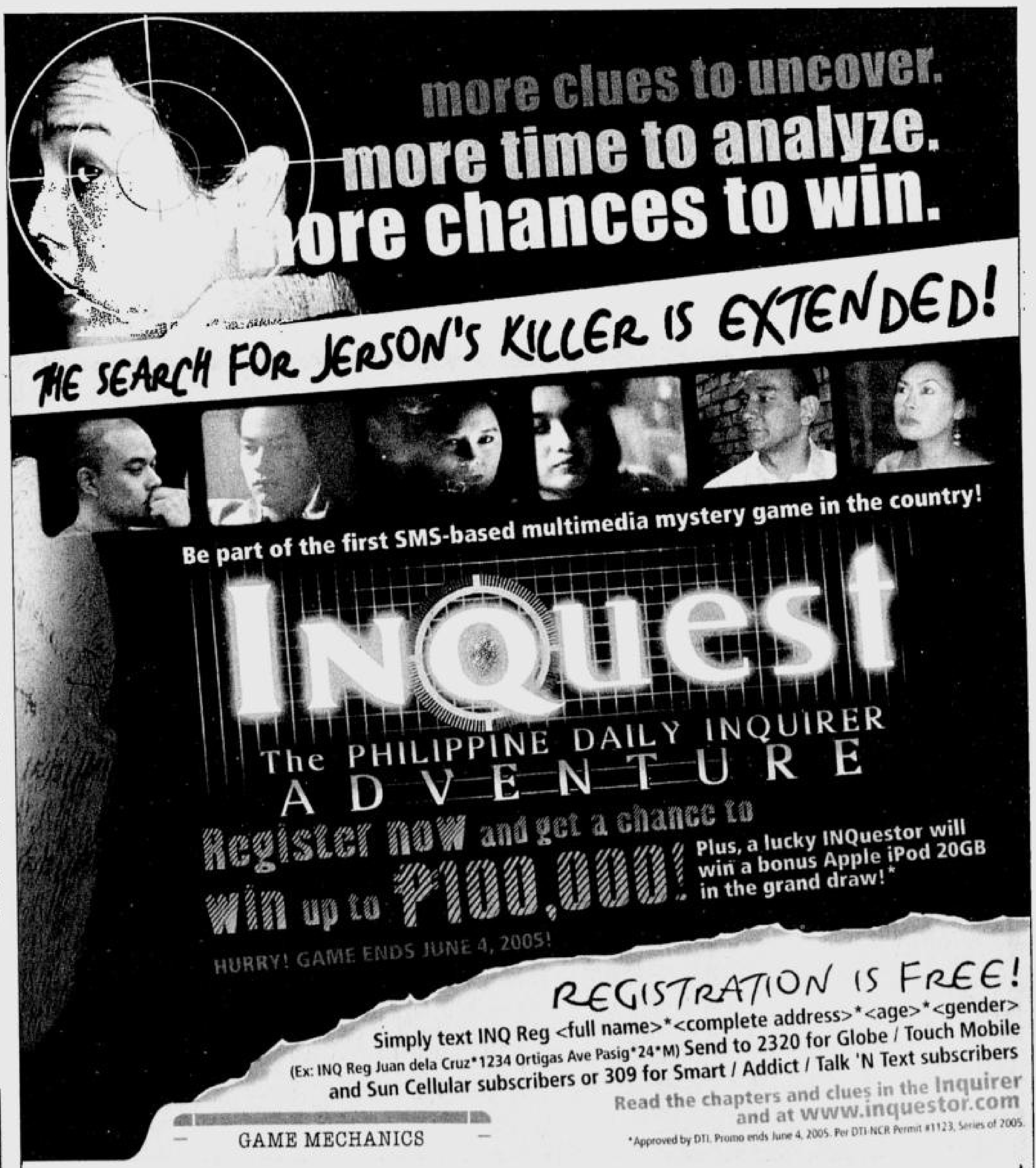
SM PRIME Holdings Inc., the country's leading shopping mall owner, was awarded Best in Corporate Governance in the Philippines for 2004 by Hong Kong-based The Asset magazine. SMPHI senior vice president Jose T. Sio (left) received the award from Daniel Yu, editor-in-chief of The Asset magazine, during the awarding ceremonies held recently at the JW Marriot Hotel in Hong Kong.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Read the chapters and clues in the Inquirer and at www.inquestor.com

*Approved by DTI. Promo ends June 4, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit #1123, Series of 2005.

GAME MECHANICS

The Registration:
1. To join Philippine Daily Inquirer's INQuest Adventure, participants must register first by texting in this format: INQ Reg <full name>*<complete address>*<age>*<gender> Ex: INQ Reg Juan dela Cruz* 1234 Ortigas Ave Pasig*34*M
2. Send to 2320 for Globe/Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular subscribers or 309 for Smart/Addict/Talk 'N Text subscribers. Free registration.
3. Upon registration, your mobile phone number is automatically locked to your name.

The Game:
1. Buy a copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer to follow the INQuest Adventure Mystery and guess the answer to the questions found at the end of the chapter installments.
2. To help you answer the questions, clues can be found in various sections in Philippine Daily Inquirer, INQuest website or INQTV (every Thursdays, 10:30 to 11:30pm at ABCS). To answer, text in this format. INQ Q<question #> <answer> and so on. Ex: INQ Q1 A
3. Participant is allowed a maximum of three (3) answers per question. Each text answer entitles the participant one (1) raffle entry to qualify for the preliminary draws.
4. For each successful text sent, participants will receive a confirmation message. The cost for each successful message sent is P2.50 for Globe/Touch Mobile and Smart/Addict/Talk 'N Text and P2.00 for Sun Cellular subscribers.
5. There will be a total of eight (8) preliminary draws (1 winner each) and one (1) final draw (6 winners*) There will only be one (1) winner per question (preliminary draw) but an individual may win again in the succeeding preliminary draws. Final draw winner can only win once.

Question	Question Date	Cut-Off	Draw	Bonus Prizes for Correct Answers
Q1	March 9	March 12	March 14	Apple iPod 20GB
Q2	March 16	March 19	March 20	Canon PowerShot A75
Q3	March 20	March 30	April 4	Apple iPod 20GB
Q4	March 31	April 2	April 4	Canon PowerShot A75
Q5	April 3	April 8	April 11	Apple iPod 20GB
Q6	April 10	April 16	April 18	Canon PowerShot A75
Q7	April 17	April 23	April 25	Apple iPod 20GB
Q8	April 24	May 7*	May 9*	Canon PowerShot A75
Q9	May 22*	June 4*	June 6*	5 x P20,000.00 Cash, Apple iPod 20GB*

6. The winner drawn from the preliminary draw (Q1-Q8) automatically gets to win a Guylito doll. An additional prize (Apple iPod or Canon Digicam) is given if he/she sent a correct answer.
7. The five (5) entries drawn for the final draw (Q9) will automatically receive a cash prize of P20,000.00 each. An additional P80,000.00 cash prize will be given to those with correct answer. A sixth winner will be drawn to automatically receive an Apple iPod 20GB regardless if his/her answer is correct or not.*
8. Winners will be notified thru registered mail and names will also be published two (2) days after the draw.
9. Metro Manila preliminary and final draw winners must claim their prizes at the PDI office located at Chino Roces Ave. cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City.
10. Provincial preliminary draw winners have the option of either claiming their prize in person at the PDI office or have the prize sent to them via courier service. Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.
11. The following must be presented for verification
    a. Valid ID with picture (e.g., driver's license, passport, employee ID)
    b. In case valid IDs do not indicate birthdate/age, present a birth certificate
    c. Copy of PDI's notification/confirmation letter
    d. PDI mast head (including date) taken from issue where question was published
12. Prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days after receipt of confirmation letter. Unclaimed prizes will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior DTI approval.
13. All prizes are tax-free, not transferable and not convertible to cash.
14. The winners declared by PDI, DTI and its representatives are final.
15. All employees of PDI Group of Companies, sponsors of INQuest, their advertising agencies/third party suppliers and their relatives up to the third degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
16. Promo period is extended until June 4, 2005.*

*Approved by DTI. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 1123, Series of 2005

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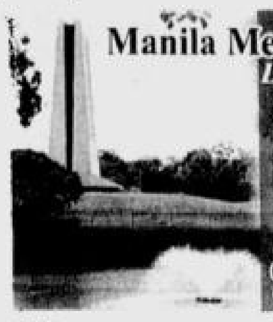

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"thus says the Lord, Fear not for
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you are mine."
Isaiah 43:1

Judge Oscar C. Fernandez

of Dagupan City, Pangasinan

Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace
and Goodness of the Lord
on the 4th day of May 2005 at the age of 72.

His loving wife **Dra. Nenita P. Fernandez**; children and in-laws **Bernadette & Ariel, Catherine & Noriel,** and **Irene & Reuben**; grandchildren **Raymund, Anne, Claudine, Bianca, Noah, Angel, Tricia, Jerome, Aaron,** and **Mark**; brothers and in-laws **Gil & Mina, Manding** (†) **& Estrella**; nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Funeraria Paz at Araneta Ave., QC, and will be brought early Sunday to the Chapel of the Knights of Columbus in Dagupan City.

Interment will be on Monday at the Eternal Gardens in Dagupan City following 7:30 a.m. Mass at the St. John's Cathedral.

Noemi Boncan Zamora
"Nena"

Peacefully joined her Creator
on May 4, 2005 at the age of 88.

Her loving parents **Jose** (†) and **Celestina Zamora** (†); her family members **Felipe** (†) and **Bettina Zamora** (†), **Alfredo** (†) and **Helen Recto** (†), **Pacita** and **Bert Cuna** (†); nephews and nieces, in-laws, grandchildren, her loyal caretaker **Martha**; other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City on Saturday, May 7, 2005 after the 9:00 a.m. Requiem Mass at the Santuario de San Antonio.

Quintin "Nonoy" M. Limquiaco

of Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental

Has joined his Creator and peacefully rest
in the infinitive warmth and embrace of Our Lord
on May 3, 2005 at the age of 91.

He was married to **Rebecca SyCip Limquiaco** (deceased); survived by his children: **Marie Carolyn Joy, George** and **Marie Christine Jeanne L. Ong, Noel** and **Marie Cecile Joanne L. Lim, Marie Carmel Jocelyn**; grandchildren: **Katrina Kristine Anne L. Ong, Kendricke George Angre L. Ong** and **Jamie Ann L. Lim**; sisters: **Tomasa, Demetria L. Locsin** and **Anacleta**. Brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces. Other relatives and friends request your kind prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Eterna Funeral Chapel, Daro, Dumaguete City.

Interment will be on May 7, 2005, Saturday at Dumaguete Chinese Cemetery after the 9:00 a.m. Funeral Mass at Mary Immaculate Church.

COL. LEON J. HERNANDEZ PAF, AFP (Ret)

Class '43 – PMA to USNA at Annapolis USA
Former C, ISAFP

Passed away in the grace of our Lord on
his 85th birthday, 3 May 2005

in the presence of his whole family at San Francisco, Ca USA
and close relatives from the Philippines.

Interment in USA

WE DESIGN
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CONSOLACION MAYO KATIGBAK

of Lipa City

Peacefully joined our Lord and
*her husband **Jose Alex** on May 5, 2005*
at the age of 91.

Her children **Tess, Sandro, Rey Mario**; grandchildren **Marianne Rose, Kathrina, Alexis, Paul** and **Jennifer**; sister **Luisa**; and in-laws, **Precy** and **Cely**; nephews, nieces, and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, San Antonio Village, Makati City to be transferred to the San Sebastian Mortuary, Lipa City on May 7, 2005.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 8, 2005 at the Lipa City Catholic Cemetery after the 3:30 p.m. Mass at the Lipa City Cathedral.

I am
the way,
the truth
and the
life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

Maj. Benjamin S. Tomelden, Jr (Ret.)

14 May 1935 – 26 April 2005

now peacefully rests in the infinite
Grace and Goodness of the Lord.

His wife **Nona**; children **Spike** and **Dorit, Leah** and **Leman, Pia** and **Dee**; grandchildren **Elena, Buddha, Robbi, Jasmine, Martin, Camille, Mikey** and **Marco**; siblings **Baby** and **Victor** and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the TH Sanders & Sons Funeral Directors in Whitton, Middlesex, UK.

Cremation will be on May 6, 2005 at 2:45 pm at Southwest Middlesex Crematorium, Hounslow Rd., Hanworth Middlesex, UK.

DEATH NOTICE

CANDIDA ECLAR

Passed away on May 5, 2005.
Her remains lie at the family residence in Igbaras, Iloilo.
Interment to be announced later.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

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Manuela V. Velasco

Peacefully joined her Creator
on May 5, 2005 at the age of 99.

Her children **Manolo** and **Chita**, and daughter-in-law **Mena**, grandchildren **Susan**, **Brenda** and **Charlie**, **Jeanne** and **Fourdie**, **Frays** and **Cathy**; her great grandchildren **Janina Gabrielle**, **Ma. Patricia**, **Pablo**, **Frances Dominique**, **John David**, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at the Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish, Daily Mirror corner Bulletin Sts., West Triangle, Quezon City.

Interment will be on May 8, 2005 at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

PEDRO LUSUAN

Peacefully joined his Creator on April 30, 2005 at the age of 83.

His bereaved wife **Siu Yiok**
Yue Ling

Children and children-in-law **Benita** and **Arturo**, **Mary** and **Yee On**, **Alex** and **Jenny**, **William**, **Wilson** and **Suet Yung**, **Calvin** and **Evelyn**, **Diana** and **Ramon**; grandchildren **Sharileen** and **Brian**, **Sherlyn**, **Joanne**, **John Stevenson**, **Joe Kimwelson**, **Angelique**, **Alister**, **Axel**, **Chester**, **Chelsie**, **Ronny**, **Richelle**, **Donita**, **Claudia**, **Perrin**, **Petrina**; great grandchild **Sean Lennard**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Chapel 4 (Assumption Chapel) of La Funeraria Paz, Manila.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 10, 2005, at the Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

CLASSIFIEDS

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PNOC SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT CORPORATION (PSTC) invites eligible bidders to submit sealed bids for the **DRYDOCKING AND REPAIRS OF MOTOR TANKER (M/T) GOMBURZA**. Following are the vessle's particulars:

LOA	:	89.40 M
Breadth	:	14.00 M
Draft	:	5.80 M
Draft, LDD	:	5.04 M
Groos Tonnage	:	1,994.22 MT
Net Tonnage	:	1,248.80 MT
Deadweight	:	3,340.00 MT
Capacity	:	23.50 MB
Year Built	:	1980
Classification	:	Bureau Veritas

The "APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT" (ABC) is PhP6,000,000.00.

This invitation is open to all contractors accredited with PNOC Shipping and Transport Corporation (PSTC). Interested contractors not yet accredited or pre-qualified with PSTC may apply for pre-qualification in order to be eligible.

Bid documents stipulating detailed work specifications, instructions, terms and conditions shall be available for issuance to accredited contractors on 6 May 2005 up to 13 May 2005 upon payment of non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) from PSTC Contracts Administration Office, Room 718 of the above address.

Deadline for the submission of sealed bids is on 30 May 2005 at 2:00 p.m. and bids shall be opened at 3:00 p.m. of the same day of the bid deadline.

As required under Republic Act No. 9184, the amount an form of bid security shall be in accordance with the following schedule:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount In % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier check, manager's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank guarantees	One and a half percent 1 ½%)
3. Surety Bond	Two and a half percent 2 ½%)

Post qualification of the winning bidder shall be undertaken. For this purpose, the winning bidder shall be required to present legal, technical and financial documents detailed in the Instruction to Bidders.

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Jocelyn G. Atotubo at telephone no. 525-92-88 or Mr. Raoul Trinidad at 525-92-89. You can also send your e-mail at rmtrindad@hotmail.com or you can fax at 525-83-76.

A pre-bid conference is scheduled on 19 May 2005 at 2:00 in the afternoon at the PSTC Board Room, at the same address.

PNOC Shipping and Transport Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids thereof, to waive any formality found therein, or to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any contractor whose bid is considered most advantageous to PSTC and to the government.

(Sgd.) JOCELYN G. ATOTUBO
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - May 6, 2005)

Republika ng Pilipinas
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SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines
CORPORATE OFFICE
Tel. No. 922-3757 / Fax No. 921-2887

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) jointly with the National Power Corporation (NPC), through the MWSS Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	: Supply and Installation of Accelerometers, for Earthquake Monitoring (Contract No. AEM-1)
Location	: Angat Hydro-Electric Plant, San Lorenzo, Norzagaray, Bulacan
Major Scope of Work	: a. Supply and installation of four (4) units Accelerometers, including the required seismic vaults b. Training of MWSS and NPC personnel, which includes lecture on basic seismology and reservoir-induced seismology, and operation and maintenance of the instrument c. Submission of Factual Reports
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	: P 7,749,280.00
Contract Duration	: 160 calendar days

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check / Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligiblity Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	May 12 - May 19, 2005 @ BAC Office, MWSS Eng'g. Dept.
2. Pre-bid Conference	May 25, 2005, 2:00 p.m. @ MWSS Sr. DA Conference Rm.
3. Submission/Opening of Bids	June 8, 2005, not later than 2:00 p.m. @ MWSS Eng'g. Dept. (Late submission will not be accepted)
4. Bid Evaluation	June 9 - June 23, 2005
5. Post-qualification	June 9 - June 23, 2005
6. Notice of Award	June 23 - June 30, 2005

Bid documents will be available only to the prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Five Hundred (P 1,500.00) Pesos.

The MWSS and NPC assume no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) ORLANDO C. HONDRADE
Administrator

(PDI – May 6 & 13, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION
Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, Pasig City
Healthline 637-9999 www.philhealth.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(PUBLIC BIDDING)

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) wishes to invite bidders for **the Network Monitoring Tool Project.**

Request for Proposal (RFP) can be obtained from May 3 to 16, 2005, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Office of the Secretariat – Bids and Awards Committee (OSBAC) Room 1804, 18th Floor Citystate Centre #709 Shaw Blvd. Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 3,000.00.

The Government of the Philippines through PhilHealth had provided funds for this project for which this invitation is issued. The approved budget for this contract is **Php 5,000,000.00.**

A pre-bid conference will be held on May 17, 2005 at 1:30p.m. at the OSBAC (Rm. 1804).

The bidders shall prepare their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposal in three separate sealed envelopes and drop in the respective bid boxes located at the above-mentioned address.

Deadline for submission of bids will be on June 7, 2005 on or before 12:00 noon at the OSBAC. Opening of bids will follow at 1:30 p.m. at the same venue. Any bidder who comes late will not be entertained. The official time clock shall be the wall clock located at Room 1804 (OSBAC). Any bid submitted after the cut-off time will not be accepted.

The BAC-ITR shall determine if each prospective bidder is eligible to participate in the bidding by examining the completeness of each prospective bidder's eligibility requirements or statements against a checklist of requirements, using the non-discretionary **"pass/fail"** criteria.

To guarantee the faithful performance by the winning bidder of his/her obligations under the contract prepared in accordance with the bidding documents, he/she shall post a Bid Security in any of the following forms and amount:

Forms of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid	Amount of Bid Security
Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%)	Php 50,000.00
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%)	Php 75,000.00
Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%)	Php 125,000.00
Foreign Government Guarantee	One hundred percent (100%)	Php 5,000,000.00

We look forward to your participation in this worthwhile endeavor.

PhilHealth reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. PhilHealth further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, or declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) MELINDA C. MERCADO, CESO IV
SVP, Health Insurance Operations Sector and
Chairperson, BAC-ITR

Mouton Cadet Pageant held

THE MOUTON Cadet Pageant 2005 at Titania Wine Cellar Inc. is sheer poetry- a dazzling immersion into the largest selling AOC Bordeaux wine, a lavish dinner from a scrupulous Chef, and a search for the Philippine ambassadress fit to signify Mouton Cadet to the rest of the world.

Mouton Cadet carries a grand family history of wine and art that dates back to 1930s France. Today, Baron Philippe de Rothschild SA continues the legacy of poetry in a bottle, bringing premium wines to several major wine-growing regions in France and abroad. No less than Chairman and President Xavier Eizaguirre of Baron Philippe de Rothschild SA was guest of honor at the Mouton Cadet Pageant last April 21.

Nine stunning beauties representing restaurants and bars competed for the title and the grand prize of rubbing elbows with dignitaries and celebrities in the Cannes Film Festival. Interspersed in the competition were endless servings of wine, cheese, and gourmet food that were as breathtaking as the competition itself thanks to Chef/Owner Jose Sotto. Among contestants Patricia Alexandria Clarino (Vienne Cuchi), Karen Jane Groupp (Nuvo), Ines Margarita Cabarrus (Prince of Jaipur), Audrey Grace Coo (Plato Platina), Jacklyn Lim (Red, Makati Shangri-La), Faith Amigo (Embassy) and Christine Cheng (Via Mare Oyster Bar), statuesque, smart, and French-speaking Gwenmaelle Ruias (representing the LGJ Group of Restaurant) emerged victorious, with Maris Dimayuga (Fridays Boracay) as 1st runner up. Both Gwen and Maris get to go to France for the Cannes. Chefs on the Go was there to take this red carpet event all in. Chefs on the Go is presented by Star Events, Inc., in cooperation with Center for Culinary Arts, Manila and The Cravings Group in association with Appetite Culinary Magazine, Carranz Advertising, Quisine, Cafe Lupe, Home Radio 97.9 and Philippine Daily Inquirer. Chefs on the Go airs every Thursday night at 11:30 p.m. on Studio 23, right after Oprah.

Philippine Daily Inquirer
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Warm your mom's heart with your deeply felt love note telling her how special she is to you. On May 8, Mother's Day, **INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS**, the widest reaching classifieds, will highlight a "Mother's Day special section" for personal ads dedicated to the first woman in all our lives.

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You're the best!
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Thanks for all you do.
Micro, Nicole, Gabby
AJ & Christian

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If there was a day for everything you have given me as a mother, it would be Mother's day everyday.
I love you very much!
Bink

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Nanay Nene,
Happy Mother's Day
&
Happy 75th Birthday!
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Thank you for always being there.
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PHILAM HOLDS FIRST PRESCHOOL FAIR

The Philippine American Life & General Insurance Company (Philamlife), the largest and most diversified life insurance company in the Philippines, holds its first ever 'Ready for Life Preschool Fair' slated on May 7 from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. at the Citywalk 2, Eastwood Libis, Quezon City. The whole day event will exhibit 20 preschools from Quezon City, Pasig, Mandaluyong and Makati, offering exciting, fun learning activities and freebies for kids and their parents. Philamlife will give away personal accident insurance coverage to lucky visitors. Behind this worthwhile activity is Philamlife's marketing group headed by Edgardo T. Vencio, vice president for marketing (standing right), Emmanuel G. Zara Jr, senior department manager for promotions and events marketing (standing left), (seated from left) Annbrigitte G. Paras, section head for category management, and Maco A. Garcia, promotions and events marketing associate. This event is being organized by Creative Juice Communications. For inquiries, call 780-9898 or 526-9367. Registration is for free.

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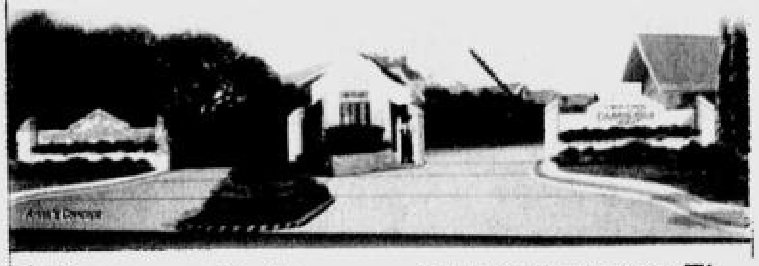

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3LOTS / 2 HOUSES 350SQ 8255305 CP 09212082680

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

Filinvest2 Cor. 112m²
3br 5Furn 0915-4057078 Jun

KAMUNING bnew 3units
3sty thse #60 K2nd
PROJ.4 bnew nr LRT stn
Hi-Top #5-C Aguinaldo
7242629 / 4352186 / 4127311

Acropolis Nice 4-6 BRMS P14-32M T-6337601-03; 8894796

ST IGNATIUS VIL
corner 400m² 6BR 13M
912-0312 • 995-0925

RIZAL

2Sty Kingsville Subd. Antipolo 120m² 3br Grg 4.5M 8040067

SAN JUAN

MANDALUYONG NR SHAW
Bnew Twnhse/3stry/3br/3-4tb/mdsrm/1 2grge
P3.655M up 8903461

CAVITE

212 SQM NEAR SM BACOOR TEL. #8704370 - MARINA

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1.1M C5 Nr The Fort
10T/mo. or 4Yrs. No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mkti 0917-8313226

1Lafayette sq. FA-119 2br 1Prk P7.5M 634-1212

Makati/Mla. Condo
Rent Sale,0920-2403601

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

Oriental Gardens Makati 45.5m² 2.7&up Roselyn 0920-3843962

Own Ur Unit Direct Cost
Tel. 700-2172, 726-5468 Tess

P 1.5M 3Br Condo Nr Mkti Drew 0921-6438006; 7401083

RENT 2 OWN 2br P14T RFO
0910-0949796. 0928-2473987

Rent 2 Own Resort Type
80K Move in 13K/mo.0927-9256243

STUDIO 50sm w/prkng
2.7M Neg 0918-9132396

MANILA

BAY GARDEN ROXAS BLVD 1.2.3BR 0920-9602940 RFO

MALATE 2BR facing BAY 6.6M NEG T-0918-9132396

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

One BEATRIZ Tower
CONDOTEL
AURORA/LAUAN ST. PROJ.3 Q.C.
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P550.^{00} net/person*
*FOR TWIN SHARING WITH COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST
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MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

PARANAQUE

Chateau De Bay Condo
176m² incl carpark fully furn
P35T rent P4M sale neg
0921-5799456 Aileen

PASIG

Casa Verde inner unit w/ attic 2 car garage P9.8M 8894769; 6475; 6337601/03

QUEZON CITY

1M 20% DP 5YTP 12T/Mo Back of City Hall / Heart Center 0917-8160250

2BR CUBAO P1.2M T9120679

Cubao P1.5M Terms 9126976

EASTWOOD 3BR 3.8M
AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY
Panoramic View Pool 77m²
0918-4845443

1BR STUDIO TYPE 30M² P300K NEG DENNIS 718-1885

Sct Area: NEW LA-157 FA-290 4BR 4TB 4CG P7.5 711-9051

VILLA FORTUNA TWNHOMES #77 SCT CHUATOCO ST QC 3-4BDRM 4T&B MDSRM 3CAR 231SQM FA 6.5 M NEG AGENTS WELCOME 373-8326

SAN JUAN

Nr M. Paterno New: LA-130 FA-360, 4BR 4TB 3CG P8M 711-9051

OTHER AREAS

Boracay Condotel 3.8M
EARN P520T/Yr. ROI 5Yrs. P75T/mo. or 1Yr. No Interest Fully Furnished 0917-8169849

TAGUIG

D' FORT 307 FA
REGENT TOWER 29 FLR. VIEW
FULLY FURNISH 4BDRM 5BA
www.MetroManila.info
09178550566/8162021

LOT

MANDALUYONG

3594m² GUD 4 WHSE ALSO AVAIL RESDL LOTS 5346610 JOJO

PARANAQUE

100m²:864m²-IDEAL:8-story CONDO MOONWALK,09206540954

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

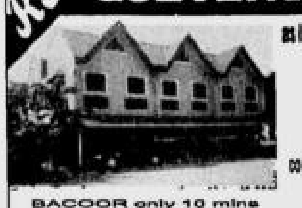
CAVITE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

CAVITE

RSG GUEVENTHOMES



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LOT

MANILA

LOT

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RIZAL

BSIDE GLENROSE TAY' SAN BEDA 7909SQM T-8106219

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12.8 HAS W/12,000 EUCALLYPTUS TREES 4 ONLY P40. PERN 2 LNE STO DOMINGO SUAL PANGASINAN CALL 046-8900400 / 02-8451290/09204338783.MELBA RUSH

LAGUNA

192&271m² SOUTHPEAK 1
SAN PEDRO 09206540954

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

CTL8 1BR Furn P13T 9299835

MANDALUYONG

Paragon Plaza FF 9125847

PASIG

RIVERSIDE EXECUTIVE TOWNHOMES
nr Ever Gotesco Pasig Marife
4213785 / 86 ; 09178356891

QUEZON CITY

2BR Penths Furn 30T Front Ateneo 641-1949 • 641-0511

APARTMENT

SAN JUAN

★A.LUNA ST 2story spacious P9T/mo good loc'n 6461603

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

600m² Whse w/ Condo Sec Cmpd Load Dck Pkng 3 Ph 09155661250

Rush QC Whse 350@20T
600@40T 420@30T 4563243

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BF P'QUE 8257524 P200!!

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

P120 only! Cool 711-8670
WINDSOR INN, Maceda St
nr 7-11 Dimasalang Mla

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Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974607

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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PTAMO nr BUENDIA 1st class 57/148/185m² 8003461 loc. 34 or 19 ofc hrs.

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NEAR SM MLA 5303894

w/Prkg 10T/mo #5487 Boyle Palanan Mkti 8040067 8320270

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CARS

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CRV 2003 2WD AUTOM. 23K MILES, S. GARY LADY DRVR 790K CALL MAE 09178370515

NISSAN

Rush Sale!! 2001 Frontier 4x2 Manual P500T Neg. 0919-8707359 09193552515

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AUDI A4 1.8 Turbo Tiptronic
Model 2002, 3000 km
1.2M Negotiable RUSH
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0917-8418773 Rhomy

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL PROSECUTOR
5th Floor Sandiganbayan Centennial Building
Commonwealth Avenue corner Batasan Road, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance with RA 7041

PROSECUTION BUREAU I, II, III, IV and ASAB

Special Prosecution Officer II - (5) positions, SG-27 (LAWYERS)

Item Nos. : OMBA-SPPO2-31-1998
OMBA-SPPO2-23-2004
OMBA-SPPO2-22-2004
OMBA-SPPO2-21-2004
OMBA-SPPO2-20-2004

Qualification Standards

Education	Bachelor of Laws
Experience	4 years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work
Training	24 hours of relevant training
Eligibility	RA 1080

Interested applicants should submit their applications to the Administrative Division, Office of the Special Prosecutor, 5th Floor Sandiganbayan Centennial Building, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City within 20 working days from the date of this publication, the following requirements: (1) A letter stating the position applied for; (2) Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (Revised CSC Form 212); (3) 1"x1" picture (colored); (4) Bar Rating/CSC Certificate of Eligibility; (5) Transcript of Records; (6) Certificates of Seminars/Training attended; (7) Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the positions assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable); (8) PAR, for last two rating periods (for current government employees only); (9) Statement duly signed by the applicants as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

WE ARE CURRENTLY LOOKING FOR A HIGHLY FLEXIBLE & MOTIVATED PEOPLE TO BE PART OF OUR DESIGNING TEAM:

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- Fine Arts / Advertising Graduate. Minimum 5 years relative work experience. Can do manual & computer illustration. With knowledge of PDF (direct to plate) system & scanning. MAC user & highly knowledgeable in Macromedia Freehand, Adobe Photoshop, etc.

ILLUSTRATOR/CREATIVE DESIGNER

- Fine Arts / Advertising Graduate. Minimum 5 years work experience in manual illustration.

COLORIST / ARTIST

- With 5 years work experience in Manual coloring (mixed media)
- Candidate must meet deadlines and can work with minimum supervision, preferably with experience in publishing and advertising.

Please submit your resumé with recent photo to:
Unit 1707, 17/Fl. Raffles Corporate Center
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
E-mail to zeny123@hotmail.com
Tel.: 9003593 Fax No.: 9003595

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

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CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

Cheap Van Rental 9330311

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

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1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

1.5% Fast Car Loan 6560140

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 6567685

2% w/out taking car 5315577

Leyte V Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Tel Nos. (053) 561-4111/ 561-8240/ 255-7211
Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City

INVITATION TO BID

The Leyte V Electric Cooperative, Inc. of Ormoc City invites interested eligible bidders to submit bid for Security Services.

Bid Documents shall be issued to interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Hundred Pesos Only (P 500.00) starting May 16, 2005.

Pre-bid conference will be held on May 19, 2005 at 9 o'clock in the morning at LEYECO V Boardroom, Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City.

Failure to attend the pre-bid conference shall disqualify the agency from dropping his bid.

Sealed bids will be received by the Pre-bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), at LEYECO V Main Office in Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City, Leyte on June 9, 2005 at 1:30 in the afternoon, at which time and place said proposals will be opened and read in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

LEYECO V reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any minor defects or informalities therein and to accept any or all offers or proposals as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the Cooperative. It assumes no obligation whatsoever for any expenses or loss that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) JOVENAL R. ALESNA
General Manager

(PDI - May 6 & 9, 2005)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

GARAGE SALE

Big Sale Various Artists 45 Firefly Valle Verde 6 May 7 6377875 CASH BASIS Only

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ELITE PIANO CENTER
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Dog Trainer 0919-2050952

DOG TRAINER 0919-3419012

PHIL . DOG SCHOOL
w/Full Guarantee T721-37-36

ROTTWEILER PUPS Champln 09275758575 / 0917-8994800

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
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& OTHER SWISS WATCHES
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WANTED
EXEC. SECRETARY
- Preferably proficient in Steno & with working experience in a law office.
- Must be Computer literate.

Apply at Carrera Law Office
303 Delta Bldg., West Ave. cor. Quezon Ave.,
Quezon City
OR CALL 09189918979
373-4559 • 373-3469

MALE

Massuer 18-25yo 09204540607

FEMALE

SALES CLERK, Single 18-25yrs old coll level pleasing personality. Apply in person w /biodata at #21 Gilmore Ave New Mla QC nr St Pauls College QC between 10:00AM-5:00PM T-7227063

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OFFICE STAFF [illegible] ALTHEA

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TXT CHRISTY 0920-8660799

Salon in Makati needs
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INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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WANTED

ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER

for the Tourism Industry

- Female, at least 35 years old
- Must have at least 5 years exp. in managing Account Executives
- Proficient in oral & written English

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Female, with pleasing personality
- Must have excellent public relations skills
- At least 2 years sales experience in the tourism industry
- Proficient in oral & written English

Compensation commensurate to qualifications.

Come personally to submit your complete resumé, transcript of records, and 2x2 photo, Mondays to Fridays 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.; Saturdays 8:00 - 12 nn to:

Costa Aguada Island Resort
Penthouse, Oppen Bldg.,
349 G. Puyat St., Makati City

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS
CIP COMPLEX, SERGIO OSMEÑA BLVD.,
NORTH RECLAMATION AREA, CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (032) 2323401-04, FAX NO. (032) 2321990,
ppavis@globelines.com.ph

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority invites all interested parties to pre-qualify for the operations of cargo handling services at the Port of Dumangas, under the jurisdiction of the Port Management Office of Iloilo.

Copies of the pre-qualification documents may be secured from the PBAC Secretariat, PMO Iloilo upon submission of an Official Letter of Intent and payment of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00), which is non-refundable, from May 17 to 26, 2005.

Duly accomplished pre-qualification documents shall be addressed to:

The Port Manager
Philippine Ports Authority
Port Management Office-Iloilo
Barangay Loboc, La Paz, Iloilo City, 5000
Tel. Nos. (033) 337-7791 to 93

Below are the schedules/deadlines:

Deadline for submission of Pre-qualification documents - June 6, 2005
Dropping/submission of Bid documents - June 22, 2005

The Pre-qualified Bidders shall be duly notified in writing of the schedule and specific time for the following:

1. Pre-bid conference;
2. Opening of Bids;

PPA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Authority.

(Sgd.) **RAUL T. SANTOS**
Port District Manager
PBAC Chairman

(PDI - May 6 & 13, 2005)

POEA

24-HR HOTLINES

722-1144
722-1155

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Regional Office No. V
Legazpi City

Case No. LMRO 05-056

RE : Application for grant of a Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate a liner service in the operation of its ship in its applied route for the carriage of passengers and cargoes and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

SANTA CLARA SHIPPING CORPORATION
Applicant.
x---x

ORDER

This refers to the application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ships in its route, under the following sailing frequency, schedule of trips and rates:

Name of Ship/s	Service/s offered/to be offered
MV "NELVIN JULES"	Passenger/Cargo
MV "KING FREDERICK"	Passenger/Cargo
MV "HANSEL JOBETT"	Passenger/Cargo

Route/s to be served:
(a) Matnog, Sorsogon – Allen, Northern Samar and vice versa; (b) Tandayag, Amlan, Negros Oriental – Bato, Samboan, Cebu and vice versa; (c) Masbate City – Panlao, Libon, Albay and vice versa, (d) Lipata, Surigao – Liloan, Southern Leyte and vice versa, (e) Cebu City – Naval, Biliran – Allen, Northern Samar and vice versa; (f) Maasin, Southern Leyte – Ubay, Bohol and vice versa

Sailing Frequenc(ies)/Schedule

Departure			Arrival		
Port	Day	Time	Port	Day	Time
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	12:00 MN	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	1:00 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon A	Daily	3:00 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	4:00 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon B	Daily	3:00 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	4:00 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	5:30 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	6:30 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	8:00 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	9:00 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	10:30 AM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	11:30 AM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	1:30 PM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	2:30 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	4:30 PM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	5:30 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	7:00 PM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	8:00 PM
Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	9:30 PM	Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	10:30 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	12:00 MN	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	1:00 AM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	3:00 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	4:00 AM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	6:00 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	7:00 AM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	8:00 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	9:00 AM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	11:00 AM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	12:00 NN
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	1:00 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	2:00 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	3:30 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	4:30 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	4:30 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	5:30 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	7:30 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	8:30 PM
Allen, Northern Samar	Daily	9:30 PM	Matnog, Sorsogon	Daily	10:30 PM

Schedule of Rates (Per Link)
Passage Rates

LINKS		Type of Accommodation/Class	Rate
From	To		
Matnog, Sorsogon	Allen, Northern Samar	3rd Class	P 80.00 (Regular)
		(Non Aircon)	64.00 (Sr Citizen 20%)
			64.00 (Student with ID 20%)
			40.00 (Child 1-11 years old 50% discount, below 1 year old Free of Charge)
		2nd Class	P100.00 (Regular)
		(Aircon)	

RORO Rates

LINKS		Type of Vehicle	Rate/Unit	
From	To		Loaded	Empty
Matnog, Sorsogon	Allen, Northern Samar	PASSENGER VEHICLES		
Allen, Northern Samar	Matnog, Sorsogon	Passenger Bus	P1,430.00	P2,210.00
		Mini Passenger Bus	1,040.00	1,560.00
		Passenger Jeepney	845.00	845.00
		Light Cars/SUVs/AUVs	715.00	715.00
		TRUCKS & CARGO TRAILER VANS		
		Isuzu ELF 4 wheeler & similar category	910.00	910.00
		Isuzu Elf 6-wheeler & similar category	1,235.00	1,105.00
		Isuzu Forward & similar category	1,560.00	1,300.00
		Isuzu Forward long chassis & similar category	1,950.00	1,690.00
		Isuzu Truck 8-wheeler/10-wheeler & similar category	2,600.00	2,210.00
		Isuzu Truck loaded with bulldozer & similar category	3,250.00	-
		PRIME MOVER TRUCKS/HEAVY EQUIPMENT		
		Tractor Head Only	1,100.00	-
		Trailer 14 to 18 wheeler	5,200.00	3,900.00
		Crane with Telescopic Boom	9,750.00	-
		Lattice Crane	9,750.00	-
		Crane without Boom	8,450.00	-
		Payloader Backhoe/Grader	8,450.00	-
		TWO-WHEELER VEHICLES		
		Motorcycle Only	195.00	-
		Motorcycle with sidecar	325.00	-
		Bicycle	45.50	-
		Bicycle with side car	130.00	-
		OTHER CARGO		
		To be computed at 216.66 per linear meter		-

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines or in a newspaper of local circulation, as applicable.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The Applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on **16 May 2005, Monday at 2:30 PM** at the Hearing Room, Maritime Industry Authority-V, 2nd Floor RCBC Bldg., Rizal St., Legazpi City, which is within seven (7) days from the date of publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS the Honorable Administrator, **VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR.**, this 4th day of May 2005.

By AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD

(Sgd.) **LUCITA T. MADARANG**
Regional Director

(PDI – May 6, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS
In Compliance with RA 7041

FIELD INSTRUCTION OFFICE

1. GENERAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU B – LEGAL RESEARCHER; SG-13

Item Nos. OMBA-LR-1-2005; OMBA-LR-2-2005; OMBA-LR-3-2005;OMBA-LR-4-2005; OMBA-LR-5-2005; OMBA-LR-6-2005; OMBA-LR-7-2005; OMBA-LR-8-2005; OMBA-LR-9-2005; OMBA-LR-10-2005; OMBA-LR-11-2005; OMBA-LR-12-2005; OMBA-LR-13-2005; OMBA-LR-14-2005; (14 Positions)

2. GENERAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU C – LEGAL RESEARCHER; SG-13

Item Nos. OMBA-LR-15-2005; OMBA-LR-16-2005; OMBA-LR-17-2005; OMBA-LR-18-2005; OMBA-LR-19-2005; OMBA-LR-20-2005; OMBA-LR-21-2005; OMBA-LR-22-2005; OMBA-LR-23-2005; OMBA-LR-24-2005; OMBA-LR-25-2005; OMBA-LR-26-2005; OMBA-LR-27-2005; (13 Positions)

3. ASSETS INVESTIGATION BUREAU – LEGAL RESEARCHER; SG-13

Item Nos. OMBA-LR-28-2005; OMBA-LR-29-2005; OMBA-LR-30-2005; OMBA-LR-31-2005; OMBA-LR-32-2005; OMBA-LR-33-2005; OMBA-LR-34-2005; OMBA-LR-35-2005; OMBA-LR-36-2005; OMBA-LR-37-2005; OMBA-LR-38-2005; OMBA-LR-39-2005; OMBA-LR-40-2005; (13 Positions)

4. INTELLIGENCE BUREAU – LEGAL RESERACHER; SG-13

Item Nos. OMBA-LR-41-2005; OMBA-LR-42-2005; OMBA-LR-43-2005; OMBA-LR-44-2005; OMBA-LR-45-2005; OMBA-LR-46-2005; OMBA-LR-47-2005; OMBA-LR-48-2005; OMBA-LR-49-2005; OMBA-LR-50-2005; OMBA-LR-51-2005; OMBA-LR-52-2005; OMBA-LR-53-2005; (13 Positions)

Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Professional

A. COMMUNITY COORDINATION BUREAU

1. GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I – Item No. OMBA-GIO1-81-1998; SG-26

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Three (3) years of experience in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: Twenty four (24) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

OR

Education: Master's degree relevant to the job; Experience: Five (5) years of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: Thirty two (32) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Relevant Eligibility for Second Level Position

2. SECRETARY II – Item No. OMBA-SEC2-10-1998; SG-9

Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: one year of relevant experience; Training: Four hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional/First Level Eligibility

B. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND CORRUPTION PREVENTION OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT GROUP

STENOGRAPHIC REPORTER III – Item No. OMBA-STENR3-68-1998; SG-11

Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: Two years of relevant experience; Training: Eight hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional/First Level Eligibility

C. PUBLIC ASSISTANCE BUREAU

ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER III – Item No. OMBA-AGIO3 8-1998; SG-22

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: One (1) year of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, conseling, investigation or other related work; Training: Sixteen (16) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

OR

Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: Two (2) years of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work; Training: Sixteen (16) hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service Professional/Second Level Eligibility

D. GENERAL SERVICES DIVISION, CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

UTILITY WORKER II – Item No. OMBA-UTW2-2-1998; SG-3

Education: Must be able to read and write; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: None (MC 11, s. 96-Cat. III)

E. CENTRAL RECORDS DIVISION, CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

PROCESS SERVER – Item No. OMBA PROCS-3-1998; SG-5

Education: High School Graduate; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: None (MC 11, s. 96-Cat. III)

Applicants should submit within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following requirements:

1) A letter stating the position applied for;
2) Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212);
3) 1" x 1" Picture (colored);
4) * Bar/Board Rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5) * Transcript of Records;
6) * Certificates of Seminars/Trainings attended;
7) * Service Records or Certificates from previous / present employers stating the positions assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable)
8) * Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9) Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

* Where photocopies are filed, the documents must be certified as true copies by the proper authorities or the applicant may present the originals to the Human Resource Management Officer for comparison with the photocopies.

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024/Fax No.: (632) 840-1459

BID BULLETIN NO. 1

Project Name	–	STEVEDORING, ARRASTRE AND HAULING SERVICES FOR THE UNLOADING AND LOADING OF COAL AND OTHER BULK CARGO AT BATANGAS COAL TERMINAL (BT04-1261)

Following is the revised schedule of activities for the bidding of Stevedoring, Arrastre and Hauling Services for the Unloading and Loading of Coal and Other Bulk Cargo at Batangas Coal Terminal.

Particulars	Original	Re-scheduled
Pre-Bid Conference	May 2, 2005 @2:30 P.M.	May 12, 2005 @ 2:00 PM
Bid Submission	May 17, 2005 @3:00 P.M.	May 26, 2005 @ 3:00 P.M.
Approved Budget	Php20,637,500.00	Php23,677,500.00

As re-scheduled, the pre-bid conference will be held at PNOC-EC Batangas Coal Terminal, Bauan, Batangas and the bid submission will be at PNOC-EC Head Office (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro), Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

This bid bulletin is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservice.net.

(Sgd.) **ELPIDIO M. GAMBOA, JR.**
Vice-Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–May 6, 2005)

PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Building 1, Energy Center, Merritt Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone Nos. 893-6001 to 47 local 2101-2104
Direct Line: 840-2024/Fax No.: (632) 840-1459

BID BULLETIN NO. 1

Project Name	-	ON-CALL LIGHTERAGE SERVICES (CM04-1209)

Following is the revised schedule of activities for the bidding of On-Call Lighterage Services.

Particulars	Original	Re-scheduled
Pre-Bid Conference	May 5, 2005 @ 2:00 p.m.	May 11, 2005 @ 2:00 p.m.
Bid Submission	May 19, 2005 @ 3:00 p.m.	May 24, 2005 @ 3:00 p.m.

As re-scheduled, the pre-bid conference and the bid submission will be held at PNOC EC Head Office (c/o Mr. George N. Alejandro) Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila.

This bid bulletin is also posted in our website at www.pnoc-ec.com.ph and in the DBM website at www.procurementservice.net.

(Sgd.) **ELPIDIO M. GAMBOA, JR.**
Vice-Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - May 6, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee for Office Uniforms of the Supreme Court and the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (BAC for Office Uniforms for the SC/PET) invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

NAME OF PROJECT: Supply and delivery of Office Uniforms for Officials and Employees of the Supreme Court (SC) and Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET)

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES		APPROVED BUDGET
Female employees	1,050	Php4,200,000.00
Male employees	1,030	Php4,120,000.00
TOTAL	2,080	Php8,320,000.00

PERIOD OF DELIVERY: November 7-30, 2005

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

I. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

The pre-bid conference shall be on **May 20, 2005, Friday**, from **9:00 a.m.** to **12:00 Noon** at the **Training Center, Ground Floor, Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila.**

II. SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The legal requirements for eligibility of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative on **June 3, 2005, Friday from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.**, at the **Training Center, Ground Floor, Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila.**

III. SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF BIDS

Bids of eligible bidders must be submitted **not later than 9:30 a.m.** on **June 14, 2005, Tuesday** and will be opened at **10:00 a.m.** in the presence of the bidders or their representatives, at the **Training Center, Ground Floor, Centennial Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura Street, Ermita, Manila.**

Interested bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the Bids and Awards Committee or BAC Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

Prospective bidders may secure eligibility requirements and bid documents from the BAC Secretariat c/o Ms. Flordeliza S. Cruz, Office of Administrative Services, 4th Floor, Centennial Building (Tel. Nos. 552-9539/552-9542), after payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00).

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects or informalities therein, or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be most advantageous and beneficial to the government.

May 6, 2005

(Sgd.) **EDEN T. CANDELARIA**
Chairperson

(PDI - May 6 & 13, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II - B
MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

April 27, 2005

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 to 2610 of the TCCP, as amended, in relation to CMO 5-2003 dated March 17, 2003, and CMO 18-2003 dated 25 July 2003, there will be a Public Auction Sale to be conducted by this Port on **May 27, 2005** at 2:30 P.M, to be held at the 2nd Floor, MICP Building, North Harbor, Isla Puting Bato, Tondo, Manila, the herein described articles in lot. Said article shall be available for viewing on **May 26, 2005.** In the event of a failed bidding, the second auction shall be conducted on the first business day following the first bidding.

Lot No. 013-05	DAZZWARE UNLIMITED S.I 04-033 1st Advertisement 'As Is Where Is' Floor Price: Php3,185,727.00	55,550 pcs. Ceramic Tiles Made in China = 119,000 kgs. net weight Location: ICTSI CY, Contr Nos. YTLU-2350431, YTLU-2120772, YTLU-2283143, YTLU-2354252, YTMU-2131015, CAXU-2013417 and YTLU-2190992.

Basic Guidelines:

1. File the duly accomplished Registration Form (name, address, TIN and other relevant circumstances to be indicated).
2. Php2,000.00 Registration Fee (Non-Refundable).
3. PhP20,000.00 Cash Bond (Refundable).
4. The highest bidder shall be required to pay 50% of the bid price either in cash and/or Manager's Check immediately and the balance of 50% shall be paid within the next business day.
5. After the second failed bidding, a particular lot may be offered to all qualified bidders for negotiated sale, subject to compliance of the requirements under Section IV-J of CMO 5-2003.
6. Payment by Cashier's/Manager's Checks to the BOC/MICP shall bear the following:
   a. Pay to the order of Land Bank of the Philippines - BOC MICP E.O.
   b. For credit of the Bureau of Customs.
   c. For the account of:

____
Bidder

For further details, please contact Mr. Isidro A. Pro, Chief, Auction & Cargo Disposal Division, MICP, Tel. No. 247-09-77.

(Sgd.) Atty. **FELIPE A. BARTOLOME, CESO V**
District Collector of Customs

PDI – May 6, 2005

JOB Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

BUSINESS

GLOBAL EXPANSION PROGRAM

NY firm sets up facility in RP; to employ 300

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A NEW YORK-BASED outsourcing firm announced Wednesday it has put up a facility in the country as part of its global expansion program.

Dilip Vellodi, chair and chief executive of Sutherland Global Services, said its Philippine operations would be able to initially hire 300 professionals when it starts business at the Export Bank Plaza within the month.

Sutherland's client base include leaders in the global personal computer market, telecommunications and software products for US business accounting and consumer tax preparation.

The firm's services include back-office and customer-facing services which include business process consulting, technical support and help desk, customer care and account management services.

Vellodi said the new facility will contribute to Sutherland's global drive to expand its workforce to 15,000 by the end of 2005 from the current 10,000.

Its Philippine workforce is expected to expand to 3,000 in the long term.

Vellodi, who founded Sutherland in 1986, did not say how much the company was investing here, but a prepared statement said it received $30 million in equity funding from a US-based investor last year.

The company has 19 years of industry experience and is already operating in 14 sites in the United States, Canada and India.

"In the past 12 months, we have opened two new centers in India and a third in Canada," he said.

"In the next few months you will see us add capacity to our Philippine operations while expanding our India and Canada centers," Vellodi added.

The official explained that its strategy in including the Philippines in its expansion drive was "continuously evaluating options that help us stay competitive and deliver the best value to our clients."

"The smooth transition of some US-based clients to the (blending of our resources in the US, Canada and India) had been the prime reason for our rapid growth in 2004, Vellodi said.

"With the Philippines added to our global delivery [network], we expect to achieve higher growth for this year," he added.

Vellodi said his firm was confident that the talent pool and infrastructure here would provide definite value and cost advantages in all the services it offers.

Sutherland's entry came in the wake of statements from industry leaders that the country was fast becoming a destination of choice for information technology-enabled services, and that it might overtake India as a global center in some sectors like call centers.

NOW MORE ACCESSIBLE VIA THE GREENFIELD / MALITLIT EXIT

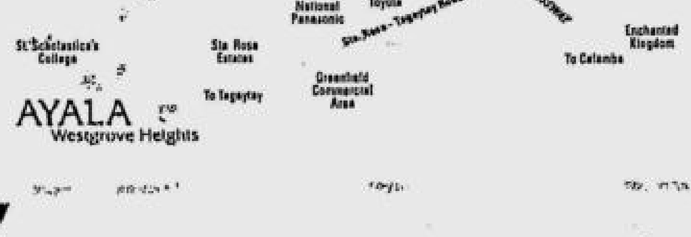
"When my investment allows me to sleep at night, I know I've made the right decision."

Eric Rabat
Ayala Westgrove Heights Lot Owner

It's never easy to look for a worthwhile investment. After all, with the amount of work one puts in just to earn a good living, the risks of making a bad investment almost always outweigh the gains. Should I invest in a business? A franchise? Stocks? Bonds? Or should I play it safe and leave my money in the bank?

These were the questions that haunted Eric Rabat for many years. He has always seen himself as a conservative investor; one who takes calculated risks and plans for the long-term. Before going into any venture, he usually does research and makes inquiries from more experienced folks. When he put up his food franchise, he made sure he took these steps. Not surprisingly, his pre-planning paid off big time. And when the time came for him to take another leap – buying his first major land investment – he adopted the same strategy.

He knew that the South would be a good place to invest in having seen how Ayala Alabang thrived as a community. Through the years, lots here have appreciated 83 times their original value. If he wanted the same big opportunity, he had to act right away.



So when he was introduced to Ayala Westgrove Heights, the Ayala Land pedigree was just too familiar for him to resist. Like Ayala Alabang, Ayala Westgrove Heights is designed to be a self-contained community. All the necessary amenities are continuously being built around it: schools, hospitals, commercial centers, groceries and churches. Only 15 minutes away from Alabang, it is a sanctuary that does not isolate, but offers a chance to escape at the end of the day.

Inside, lush mango groves, rolling hills and a cool climate afford residents a certain calmness that is hardly available inside the cities. The entire property is master-planned to maintain wide open roads and spaces, with density kept at its most ideal.

Eric believes that this is the wisest land investment he has ever made for himself, but most especially, for his family. He is certain that Ayala Westgrove Heights is destined to be the Next Big Thing. Maybe that's why he sleeps soundly at night. Or maybe, his dreams are simply filled with the scent of fresh mornings spent amidst the hills and groves at Ayala Westgrove Heights.

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Westgrove Heights

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BUSINESS*Friday*

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

SMART Load program counts over 300,000 retailers in its network.

Private firms, poor can make good partners

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

DIFFERENT studies show that one of every two families in the National Capital Region lives below the poverty threshold of P18,000 a month for a family of five, and about three of 10 families nationwide live on less than the required minimum family income of P11,000.

But poor as these Filipinos are, they still represent a huge market that many manufacturers and retailers have overlooked.

After all, they still spend for such basics as food, clothes, appliances and even loads for their cellular phones.

Unfortunately, it was not only their potential as a market that was overlooked, so was their ability to be entrepreneurs.

A number of large corporations, however, have recognized the untapped potential of the poor to run their own businesses, and are now benefiting from going into partnership with them.

Among these are mobile telecommunications firms Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc.

Through technological advancements that gave birth to Smart's Smart Load and Globe's Autoload Max programs, poor families, even in remote barangays, have become entrepreneurs, selling much sought after pre-paid electronic phone credits for as low as P25 per transaction.

The system is patterned after the *tingi* (by portion) retailing system, where products are sold in small, more affordable packaging.

It works for everything from shampoos in sachets, to corned beef in mini cans, and now prepaid credits for as low as P25.

All the potential retailers need are a cellular phone, a Subscriber Identification Module for retailers sold for just P100 each, about P300 for the initial load, and they are ready to go, with electronic loads available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for customers.

Since Globe launched its Autoload Max program in November 2003, it has already attracted over 700,000 retailers, of which about 500,000 are simple entrepreneurs who run sari-sari stores or individuals who recognized a business opportunity they could easily get into.

MAY
P25
pa-piso-piso
dagdag pa!

GLOBE has 700,000 retailers

Smart, on the other hand, launched its Smart Load program in May 2003 and now counts over 300,000 retailers in its network.

More are joining the ranks of pre-paid load sellers because of the attractive returns.

Cindy Salaya, Globe's head of reload services, says that the retailers of Autoload Max earn at least 14 percent from each transaction, or about P3.50 for every P25 load.

That is more than the percentage they would earn from selling softdrinks or chips in sari-sari stores.

Elve Ortiz, a Smart Load retailer from Malibay, Pasay, started off with just three retailer SIMs.

The following week, she got 10 more, and even more the next week.

Today, she has 70 SIMs that she distributed to friends, family and nearby sari-sari stores, making her a dealer.

She was eventually able to set up her own cell phone accessories store from what she earned selling over-the-air credits.

Her story is not unique, as all the other retailers have their own stories of how they built a better life for themselves from selling pre-paid credits.

What's more, Salaya says the system makes it easier for average Filipinos to buy pre-paid phone credits.

The system not only gave ordinary Filipinos opportunities to earn more money, quickly and painlessly, it also helped the telecommunications companies grow their subscriber base, expand their market, and sell more phone credits.

It is, truly, a win-win situation, and the kind of partnership that the United Nations seeks to foster to win the war against poverty.

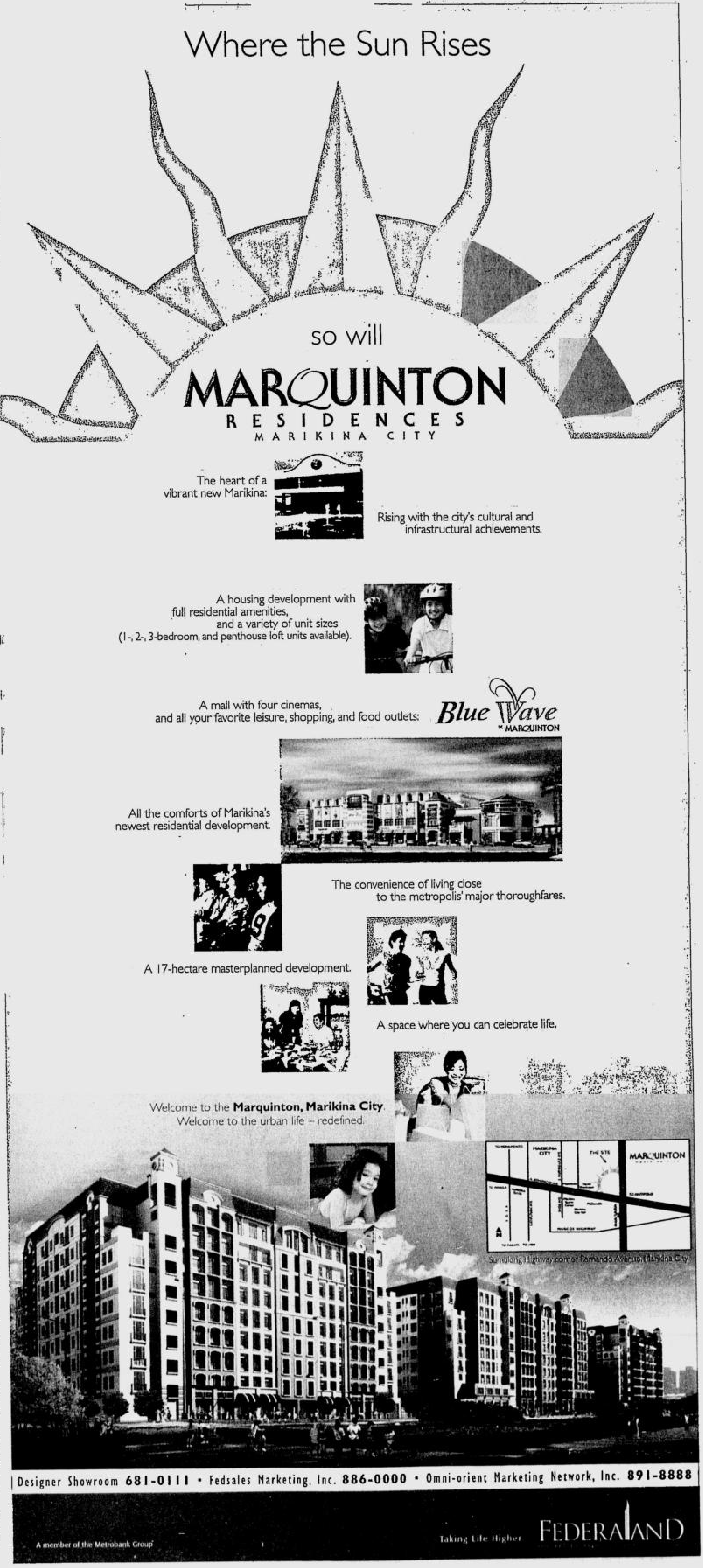
Dr. Hafiz A. Pasha, UN assistant secretary general, said during the recently concluded conference of the United Nations Development Program, entitled "Unleasing Entrepreneurship—Making Business Work for the Poor," that the profit motive must always be there to get the private sector to participate in programs to alleviate poverty.

The Smart Load and Autoload Max systems were the Philippine examples of partnerships between the private sector and the poor that were discussed during the conference.

Similar business models from other countries, such as India, Brazil, China, were likewise presented.

"Respecting a reasonable and legitimate profit motive is necessary if we want the private sector to replicate itself, upscale its investments, and sustain its commitments," Pasha said.

As Pasha stressed, profit and poverty alleviation can—and must—go together if we are to win the war against poverty.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Editor Aries Espinosa

Celebrating woman power with Globe Girlfriends

WHETHER they are single career women, mothers and homemakers, or young students, women make great things possible everyday. Globe's dependable mobile communication services help today's Filipina cope with her busy lifestyle by keeping her connected and up-to-date. Globe Girlfriends, Globe's fun and fearless female club, recognizes women's needs not only for reliable connectivity, but for empowerment and total self-development as well.

Globe Girlfriends joined the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) in its weeklong celebration of National Women's Month this March. 2005 happens to be a crucial year for the women's sector, with the centennial of the feminist movement in the Philippines as its highlight. The Beijing+10 forum, which marks the 10th anniversary of an international conference that is considered a milestone in the women's movement, was also held earlier this year. This tie-up is thus a landmark partnership for Globe Girlfriends, which has been inspiring, rewarding, and honoring its female subscribers with special discounts on pampering treats, exclusive events that provide a fun chance for relaxation and female bonding, and exciting quotes and downloads that brighten up their day. Now, Girlfriends joins the NCRFW in its continuing advocacy for women's empowerment and capability building in all areas.

HUNDREDS of men, women, and children join in a fun run symbolic of women's continuing quest for empowerment at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

GLOBE Girlfriends and the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) pledge to work together to promote women's empowerment. Shown is NCRFW chair Myrna Yao (center) sealing the partnership with Ruth Aguilar (right) and Rhoda Mae Dyquiangco (left), representatives from Globe corporate marketing.

Int'l Women's Day

At the opening ceremonies on March 8, a date celebrated worldwide as International Women's Day, the NCRFW presented the triumphs, thrusts, and directions of the movement for women's empowerment in the Philippines. The event emphasized women's crucial role in nation-building, in line with this year's theme "Kakayanan ng Kababaihan, Kilalanin at Pagbuklurin Para sa Ating Bayan" (Unifying Women for a Stronger Nation). It was attended by hundreds of men and women from various government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and civic groups.

The NCRFW also gave recognition to outstanding women from different fields, such as Civil Service Commission Chair Karina David (outstanding woman in government) and Philippine Olympic Committee Women and Sports Commission Chair Cynthia Carrion. An exhibit and bazaar featuring products of various microenterprises owned and managed by women drew focus to Filipino women's capacities and skills. A job fair for women, organized by the Department of Labor and Employment, reinforced the emphasis on capability building and economic empowerment.

YOUNG and old alike enjoy a vigorous round of aerobics on '4F Day' (Fun Festival for a Fit Female) at the Rizal Memorial Complex.

THE WOMEN'S Month 2005 bazaar in Intramuros showcased numerous products made and sold by creative and business-savvy women entrepreneurs.

The culminating activity, dubbed "4F Day" (Fun Festival for a Fit Female) saw a crowd of men, women, and children running for fitness and fun at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex early on the morning of March 12. It focused on health and fitness as a basic element in a woman's personal development. The Ninoy Aquino stadium was packed with nearly 3,000 participants from government and NGOs, who all joined in a vigorous round of exercise led by an energetic 76-year-old aerobics instructor Lydia Buendia. World-class athletes such as international billiards champions Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante gave uplifting messages to inspire the audience and paid tribute to women's excellence in the fields of sports and fitness. Gymnastics and ballroom dance exhibitions, interspersed with lectures on osteoporosis, stress management, and other health-related topics capped an active, fun-filled day.

In all these activities, Globe Girlfriends united with Filipino women in an enthusiastic celebration of female power. Women flocked to the booths to get a Globe Girlfriends membership, and NCRFW chair Myrna Yao thanked Globe for its valuable support. "We look forward to strengthening our partnership with Globe and working with them on other projects," she said. "Communication and technology actually play a significant role in women's empowerment, so we're thankful to Globe for supporting our efforts."

Be a Globe Girlfriend now and experience fun, exciting, and fabulously female events, discounts, and downloads. Simply text CLUB to 2209 to join Globe Girlfriends for free and enjoy the privileges that a Globe Girlfriends membership has to offer.

Bits & Clips

Daily freebies from BK

BURGER King offers daily freebies to complete your dining experience. End your week on a high note as you claim your free regular fries and drink when you buy a BK Big Fish with Cheese this Friday; and when you buy the Whopper this Saturday. BK caps your week with the same freebies when you by the BK Cheeseburger XXL on Sunday. Enough reasons to spend your weekend at Burger King! The "Freebies Araw-Araw" lasts until May 7 only.

Bear Brand Kitefest

WITH the theme "Lipad na sa Saya", the 15th Bear Brand Kitefest is slated to visit a total of 9 cities nationwide with the support of their local government units. The Kitefest goes to Lucena on May 8 and Manila on May 15. This year's Kitefest features a special text promo tieup with GMA 7 dubbed as "Bear Brand Kite ni Kapuso". A purchase of any pack of Bear Brand Powdered Filled Milk pack entitles you to vote for any of the three special kites, namely the Maria Makiling, the Sirena Sisters and the Manong Agila Celebrity Kites endorsed by celebrities Teri Onor, Ethel Booba and Bearwin Meily. Text bbkite_(celebrity name)_(BEAR BRAND pack code number)_your name)_(your address) to 367 for Smart and Talk 'N Text subscribers, and 2344 for Globe and Sun Cellular subscribers.

Pampanga Motorcyclists' Convergence

THE 4-STRONG team of the 1st Pampanga Motorcyclists' Convergence headed by the Road Runner Riding Club of Pampanga, is confident that the mix of stunts, spectacles, show bikes and stands will prove a winning combination. With over 1,500 motorcycles and scooters to be on display, this year's show boasts at least 24 motorbike display teams. Scooters, Enduro, Easy Riders and Sports Bikes will be on display, plus an impressive display of customized motorcycles. They converge on the Lawn Area in Holiday Inn Resort Clark Field for the grand show that starts 7 a.m. of May 7 and ends at 1 a.m. Proceeds of this event go to the Duyan ni Maria Foundation. For inquiries, call 845-1888 or (045)599-8000 or log on to www.holiday-inn.com/hotels/clarkfield.

All the chicken you can eat

ARE YOU a fried chicken fan? Then brace yourself for Popeyes Chicken & Seafood's "All the Chicken You Can Eat" promo for P129. Millions of people over the world have come to love Popeye's one-of-a-kind chicken. It's time for you to indulge in this fantastic treat in any of the Popeyes Chicken & Seafood outlets: Greenhills Shopping Center, Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Ermita, Robinsons Metro East, New Farmers Plaza Cubao and SM City Pampanga. The promo is ongoing until May 9.

Catering seminar set

MB&G/ProActive is now accepting reservations for the "Managing a Catering Business Seminar-Workshop" slated for May 9 to 13, 1 to 5 p.m. at Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City. Caterers, restaurateurs, and those planning to start or manage a catering business are invited. Call 687-1787 or 0915-4315375 for registration and inquiries. The 5-day training features lectures and hands-on workshops on planning the menu, equipment and staffing, cost control, and room arrangements.

MHPHS '69's 36th

BATCH 1969 of the Marcelo H. del Pilar High School (MHPHS) of Malolos City, Bulacan, will mark its 36th year with a general homecoming and reunion on May 7, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Malolos Club Royale, Km. 40, MacArthur Highway corner Fausta Road, Malolos City. Aside from a day of fun, prizes and surprises, the MHPHS Batch '69 Alumni Association has also announced it will award full scholarships to three incoming freshmen students who will pursue their respective 4-year courses this coming school year at the Bulacan State University. A new set of members of the board of directors of the association will also be elected during the general assembly. For more details, call Regie de Jesus-Pagdanganan at 0910-3407669.

'Imagine, Build and Race Tour'

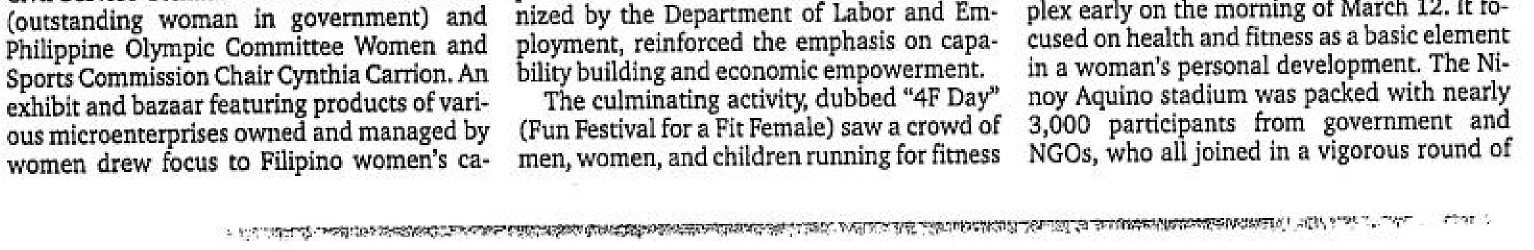
MEGA Bloks is taking block play into new heights as it introduces the Nano Imagine, Build and Race Tour. The event features the other side of what ordinary blocks can do to create a whole new level of excitement. The tour is open for kids ages 8 to 15 for the junior category and kids 15 years old and above for the senior category. For every purchase of a Nano vehicle from May 1 to 31 at participating Toy Kingdom and Toy World branches in Metro Manila, customers will be given a Nano access pass that serves as entry in the race during the elimination round. The Nano Race starts on May 7 and will be held at Toy Kingdom SM Makati and SM Megamall. For more details, call Richwell Trading Corp at 732-5141 to 47. Log on to www.megabloks.com for new products.

'Extra Joss, Extra La-Cash'

EXTRA Joss, the fastest growing and thirst quenching energy drink available in the country announces its biggest promotional activity to date, the "Extra Joss, Extra La-Cash" raffle promo. Starting April 1 to June 30, banner prizes are at stake for regular drinkers of Extra Joss all over the country. Over P2 million in total cash prizes await lucky Extra Joss consumers. Consumers need only to collect three sachets of Extra Joss (English label only), write their name, address, birthday, contact number and signature on a piece of paper, and put these inside an envelope marked with the title "Extra Joss, Extra La-Cash" and drop in drop boxes in all LBC branches and selected supermarkets. The two monthly draws are scheduled on May 6 and June 2. The grand draw will be on July 7. All draws will be aired live over "Eat Bulaga" on GMA 7.

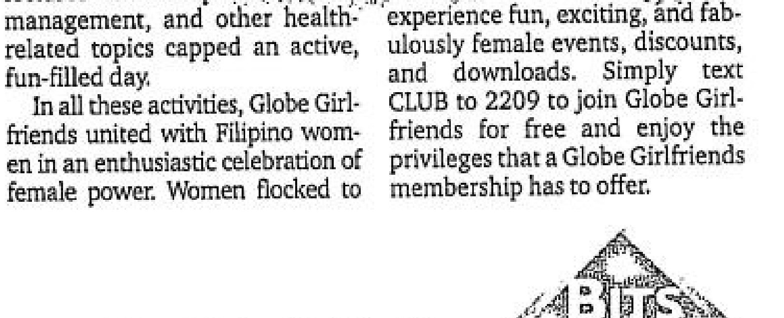
'Kidlat-Bilis Remittance'

BUILT to meet the need for quick, easy and affordable local money transfer service, Cebuana Lhuillier Pawnshop through its Pera Padala offers "Kidlat-Bilis Remittance". Pera Padala stand-alone centers are located at Greenbelt Mall in Ayala Center and MRT Edsa-Shaw station. Promo leaflets available from Pera Padala representatives may be presented at Pera Padala stations for a special gift. And for repeated Pera Padala transactions, one can get the Pera Padala Ulit Card. Present the Ulit Card upon your next transaction and get exciting freebies like free e-load on your 3rd and a free Jollibee value meal on your 6th transaction. Promo period is from April 1 to May 31.



JWT RELAUNCH A MEDIA EVENT

JWT's relaunch and new logo presentation at the Westin Hotel recently was a media affair as well. Top people from the advertising and media industry gathered and kept themselves abreast with recent events and issues. Shown, from left, are Lucien Dy Tioco, Philippine Star, Bobby Barreiro, ABC 5, Minda Lansang, chair of Mindshare, Paciencia Pineda, Manila Bulletin, Bambi Locsin, Businessworld, Matthew Seddon, JWT's vice chair, Danny Ocampo, Businessworld, Charo Santos and Nic Gabunada, ABS-CBN and Pepito R. Olarte, VP for advertising, Philippine Daily Inquirer.



VIP AT WG

Wheel Gallery, the company that introduced the 'Dubs' look in the Philippines, recently played host to Richard Saberton, Sema VP for operations for the Asia-Pacific Region. Saberton was in town for a weeklong observatory tour of the domestic aftermarket industry. His Philippine visit was arranged by Tradeshow International, the outfit behind Transport Show and the soon to be launched Manila Auto Salon. 'I have heard of great things about the aftermarket mafia. Their customization and modification of SUVs and compact sedans are at par with the US market in terms of creativity and design. We look forward to their participation in Sema shows in the very near future,' says Saberton. Shown is Saberton with Wheel Gallery and Tradeshow officials (from left) led by Atoy Llave of A-Toy Paint and Body Kits, Sophie de los Santos of Tradeshow International, Richard Saberton of Sema, Sammy Liuson, president of Wheel Gallery and Arvin Lim of Makna Marketing.

RP wins 6 bronzes at Asian ad awards

By Angel V. Guerrero
Contributor

PATTAYA, Thailand—The series of annual international creative award shows that define the global ad industry started with the recently concluded Asia-Pacific Advertising Festival held in Thailand. Immediately followed by The One Show in New York; the Asian Advertising Awards called "The Spikes" in Shanghai (after being held in Hong Kong for over 20 years); the Clios in Miami; D&AD in London culminating in the Cannes Lions in France. These are regarded as the main shows with a still a longer list of secondary forums—the New York Festival, the London International Awards, Communication Arts, the Mobius Awards, Campaign Brief's The Work, Archive magazine—one tells me creative awards is a serious business!

The Philippines scored its highest ever medal tally in the 8th Asia-Pacific Advertising Festival, dubbed the "Cannes of Asia" held at the Royal Cliff seaside here.

Two agencies brought home six bronze trophies in the Lotus Awards. BBDO Guerrero Ortega reaped five of the country's six bronzes, two in print for the Wrigley's Orbit for Kids "Monkey Bar" print ad which shows a boy using his teeth to hold him up on a monkey bar and for the Child Hope "Chalk" print campaign; and three individual bronzes for the Smart Communications posters "Err," "Gallery" and "Ur type."

TBWA Santiago Mangada Puno picked a bronze in TV for the 6th Cinemanila International Film Festival TV commercial entitled "Kitano." The spot is a funny take on foreign films with subtitles. It features a seemingly sex-starved man in a moviehouse who is torn between reading the subtitles and watching the French sex flick shown on the screen.

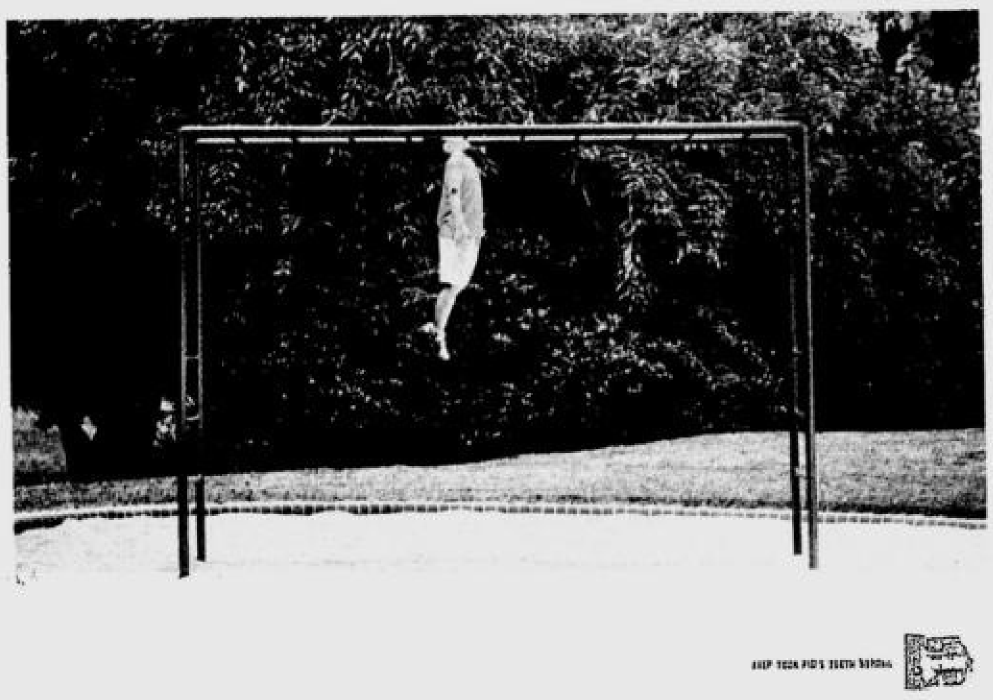
Finalist mentions were received by Lowe for their Skyflakes "Drill Sergeant" TV commercial; Cinemanila's second TV commercial entitled "Godard," and in the Interactive category, the Nizoral "Scratch" Web banner ad series by TBWA Santiago Mangada Puno.

Notable past Philippine winners in the eight years of the APAdfest Lotus Awards were the gold win for the McDonald's "Karen" TV spot and a bronze for the Bengay "Bow" TV spot by Hemisphere-Leo Burnett; a bronze for BBDO Guerrero Ortega's regional TV spot for Visa starring Zhang Ziyi; and last year's triple-bronze winner, TBWA Santiago Mangada Puno for the Adidas "Anti-Fake" print and poster series.

Out of the 65 registered advertising agencies in the country, 12 agencies entered the competition with close to a total of 200 submissions.

This year's six bronzes may be seen as an impressive performance by the Philippines, but compared to the other competing countries in the competition, it was quite a way down the medal-tally ranking. The Philippines ranked eighth behind perennial winner Singapore, culture-confident Thailand, improving Malaysia, TV-strong Japan, creative powerhouse India, disappointing Hong Kong (a big drop from where they used to be) and an emerging China (Shanghai/Beijing). We managed to be above Taiwan, Vietnam, Korea and Indonesia. The count excludes our neighbors in the Pacific, Australia and New Zealand.

The competition is tough. The APAdfest is not just a competition amongst the best ad agencies in Asia, but amongst the best in the world! Thailand, Japan and Singapore are ranked in the top ten "most awarded countries in the world," as reported by London-based publishers of The Gunn Report, the annual worldwide league tables for the advertising industry and acknowledged as "the bible of the ad industry." The United States and Great Britain herald over the rest in the worldwide rankings.



WRIGLEY'S Orbit for Kids demonstrates the benefits of having strong teeth in the "Monkey Bar" Bronze-winning print ad by BBDO Guerrero Ortega.

Smoothie that has no ice, milk or sugar, anyone?

By Amy R. Remo

WHAT makes this smoothie healthier and different from the smoothies offered in some restaurants, is that it doesn't have ice, milk or sugar.

As the first of its kind in the country, Fuzion Smoothie Café offers smoothies made entirely from fruits, healthy yogurt (optional) and aloe nectar, which give the frosty beverage an all-natural sweetness.

"Our smoothies are the perfect blends of healthy pleasures. We blast-freeze our fruits so they would retain their freshness," says Meredith Ngo and Jerome Uy, the husband-and-wife team behind Fuzion.

Uy explains that to blast-freeze means to store the fruits in a very low temperature (-62 degrees Fahrenheit). The ice crystals formed in the fruits would be much smaller and finer unlike crushed ice. Thus, when blended, the beverage would be true to its name—a smoothie.

"Also, since we don't use ice and sugar, you get the whole fruit value for each cup, as well as value for your health and money," adds Ngo.

Instead, what makes the fruit sweet and cold is the blend of blast-frozen fruits and chilled aloe nectar.

Ngo says their bestselling smoothies include Flamango, which is a blend of mango, peach and banana, and Very Berry Good, an exotic smoothie made from blueberry, strawberry and raspberry.

Fuzion's menu also offers pasta, wraps, rice meals, salads and crepes, a lot of which are customized and fruit-themed to match its smoothies.

Uy says that their food menu accounts for about half of their monthly sales, which averages at P500,000.

Setting up the business

Ngo relates that she and Jerome decided to come back to the country to set up a business after living in Singapore, US, Tokyo and Hong Kong for about six years, both holding prestigious positions in multinational corporations.

On a personal note, Uy adds it feels more comfortable to set up business in one's home country because you have that sense of familiarity.

"The country's food and beverage industry is still a relatively underdeveloped and untapped market as there are a lot of new concepts that have not been introduced here," says Ngo.

Ngo adds that the Philippines is an ideal place to set up a food and beverage business because of the long hours that Philippine malls and cafés enjoy.

fuzion smoothie café

FUZION'S first branch located at Robinsons Galleria

"Not many cities in Asia can boast of the late hours that the Philippines has, having a highest peak time after 9 p.m. This represents around three to six hours of significant extra sales," explains Ngo.

According to her, one of trends that has yet to catch up on in the Philippines, is the smoothie craze.

"In the US, smoothies have been a very big hit since the late '90s, especially in the West Coast where there are even more smoothie cafés than coffee shops," says Ngo.

She adds that if smoothies can thrive so well in colder US and Asian cities, what more for a tropical country where people are always searching for the perfect, cold frosty drink?

Filipinos, she says, are also more open to trying new products.

After going on a "smoothie test rampage across Asia and the US," Ngo says they finally settled for the best smoothie, which is that of Fuzion.

Singapore-based Fuzion is the leading smoothie chain in Asia with branches in Hong Kong and Beijing. Ngo and Uy bought the master franchise for the Philippines and put up their first café in December 2004 at Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas Center.

Aggressive expansion

By June 2005, they expect to have six company-owned smoothie cafés. For the next two years, Uy says they plan to have at least 20 stores in Metro Manila, some of which will be franchises. They are also open to opening smoothie cafés in the provinces.

She adds that their expansion plans could benefit the Philippine fruit industry.

"Philippine fruits are abundant in variety and quality, which are poised to support us in ensuring a constant stable supply," says Ngo.

But for now, 60 percent of their fruits are locally sourced while 40 percent are imported. Imported fruits include raspberries and blueberries. Uy adds they hope to increase locally sourced fruits in the near future.

Despite aggressive moves to increase the number of smoothie cafés in the country, Uy says they are not worried that this "craze" might fade soon.

"We believe that there is a demand for smoothies. Fruit smoothies are not a fad as fruits have already become an integral part of our diets. Our smoothie is just one way to enjoy this diet staple," says Uy.

Sustaining interest

"We always offer new flavors each month," says Uy. "We have about 200 flavors for now which we would introduce to the public one set after another."

He adds that from a set of around 20 flavors, they keep the bestsellers and throw out those that did not "click." Each month, Fuzion will introduce, more or less, 13 new flavors. Each flavor that will be introduced has been approved by the head office in Singapore.

"Timing is the key," says Uy. "If there is proper timing, then you could sustain the interest of your customers and keep them loyal to your products."

(Interested franchisees can call 915-6007 or email at apps@fuzionphils.com)

You've got mail

TAX-FILES

By Jose P. Ferrer
and Chester R. Abellera
SGV & Co.

ORDINARILY, receiving a letter is a welcome treat. However, when we see the sender is a government agency like the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), chances are, our excitement will turn into something else. Instinct tells us this cannot be good.

We open the mail and realize that the BIR has just sent us an "LN." A what? It says that a discrepancy has been discovered after computerized matching was done. Huh? Reading the letter again only makes us ask more questions. What do we do with an LN? Can we ignore it and hope that it will just go away? Perhaps, if we knew more, if we even knew what an LN was, we would know what to do next.

So, what is an LN?

A Letter Notice is issued by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue (CIR) to taxpayers who have been found to have discrepancies after a computerized/manual matching of sales and purchases/expenses was conducted. The BIR notifies the taxpayer of findings that sales made by suppliers or purchases by buyers of goods or services do not tally with what the taxpayer reported and filed with the BIR.

How are LNs generated?

The process of issuing Letter Notices is consistent with the "no-contact-audit-approach" of the BIR. This approach is said to be "no contact" since the BIR examiners do not approach the taxpayer unlike the case when detailed examination of the taxpayer's books and records is made. The process leading up to the issuance of an LN includes the automatic computerized matching of sales and purchases data contained in the schedules of sales and domestic purchases, and schedule of importation submitted by VAT taxpayers. Aside from schedules submitted by VAT taxpayers, data may also be taken from other information or returns filed by taxpayers such as alphalist of payees subject to final or creditable withholding taxes.

All these information are consolidated and matched by the BIR to detect any under declaration of revenues using the BIR's computer program called Reconciliation of Listing for Enforcement (Relief) system. The Relief system enables the BIR to cross-reference third party information from taxpayer summary list of sales and purchases prescribed by law to be submitted on a quarterly basis.

Since Relief became operational in 2002, the BIR has been able to detect inconsistencies between data from the schedules submitted and the returns filed. And once the Relief system detects any discrepancy, it automatically generates the Letter Notice together with the details of taxpayer's customers'/supplier's records which are sent out and find their way into our mailboxes.

How and when LNs started

We can trace the beginnings of the Letter Notice with the issuance of Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 12-2002. It was in RR 12-2002 that the term Letter Notice was first introduced.

With the Relief system in place, the BIR discovered that many taxpayers have not been paying the correct VAT, income and other taxes. Taxpayers found to have underreported sales/receipts according to the Relief system were sent an LN detailing amounts involved and what was required of them. RR 12-2002 was issued to give these erring taxpayers the opportunity to settle their tax liabilities by availing of the voluntary assessment and abatement program of the BIR.

Since RR 12-2002, the BIR has used the Relief system and the Letter Notice in issuing assessments of deficiency internal revenue taxes. The most recent issuance of the BIR along this line is Revenue Memorandum Order (RMO) No. 42-03. It prescribes additional guidelines governing the rules on assessment of national internal revenue taxes covered by a Letter Notice issued under the Relief system.

What is the nature of an LN?

a. A notice of audit or investigation. Pursuant to Section 6 of the 1997 Tax Code, a taxpayer is given the right to modify, change or amend any return, statement or declaration within three years from the filing of the same. However, the privilege comes with a condition, no notice for audit or investigation of such return must have been served upon the taxpayer. Otherwise, the right to amend any return becomes inoperative.

Section II(5) of RMO 42-03 clarifies the nature of an LN. It states that the LNs being served by the bureau can be considered notice of audit or investigation in so far as the amendment of any return is concerned which is the subject of the LN.

The classification of the LN as a notice for audit or investigation is very significant since the issuance of an LN will prevent a taxpayer from modifying, changing or amending his return.

In a memorandum dated June 9, 2003, Deputy Commissioner Jose Mario C. Buñag explained the treatment of the LN as a notice of audit or investigation by saying:

"...the issuance of an LN is predicated on the findings through the Reconciliation for Listing and Enforcement (Relief) system together with the Integrated Tax System (ITS) that generated firm and precise data on sales underdeclarations. Any LN issued therefore presupposes that an audit or investigation had been made, whether the same is partial or otherwise."

This view by Buñag has been adopted by the bureau and has become the basis for later issuances particularly Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC) No. 40-03 and RMO 42-03. Both issuances state that the issuance and receipt of an LN will disqualify taxpayers concerned from amending any return which is the subject of such audit or investigation.

b. A notice of informal conference. According to Section III (5) of RMO 42-03, an LN is a discrepancy notice similar to a notice of informal conference as defined in RR 12-99.

A notice of informal conference under RR 12-99 is a letter sent to a taxpayer inviting him for an informal meeting to discuss the findings of the revenue officer who audited his records. The notice of informal conference states that based on the report of the revenue officer, discrepancies have been found in the taxpayer's payment of taxes. The "informal conference" is conducted to afford the taxpayer the opportunity to present his side of the case.

Hence, similarly, a Letter Notice will contain the following paragraph:

"In line with the bureau's policy of affording taxpayers the opportunity to 'reconcile such discrepancy, you (the taxpayer) are hereby invited to the bureau, (address) on (date) from 8 a.m. until noon, to validate these findings, and to present any evidence you (the taxpayer) may have to reconcile these variances."

Being similar to a notice of informal conference, we can respond to an LN as though we are responding to a notice of informal conference using the procedures laid down in RR 12-99.

How to respond to an LN?

So, we receive an LN from the BIR detailing the discrepancies which the Relief system picked up. What next? Well, right off the bat, if we know that we have no way of explaining the discrepancy and basically tend to agree with the findings, there is wisdom in complying with the LN by paying the indicated tax liability. Settling the basic tax indicated in the LN, however, should be done within 15 days from the time you received the LN in case you want to request for a cancellation of the penalties. Payment beyond this period will "remove much of the basis for any such abatement."

The standard LN will also advise us to voluntarily settle the deficiency taxes pertaining to other periods not covered by the LN. However, knowing that the Relief system is not without flaws and we find that the discrepancies are debatable, we should take the opportunity to clarify the discrepancies in the scheduled meeting. We may present any documentary evidence to reconcile the discrepancies detailed in the LN.

In case we inadvertently failed to respond to the LN within 15 days from the date we received the LN, the BIR shall send a follow-up letter. We are then given an additional 10 days in which to respond to the LN. If we still fail to respond to the follow-up letter, the case shall be indorsed to the assessment division for review and the issuance of a preliminary assessment notice or final assessment notice whichever is appropriate.

At this point, the rules on assessment of national internal revenue taxes as laid down in RR 12-99 shall be applicable and should be observed. What are the effects if an LN is issued?

a. Taxpayer is disqualified to amend return. As discussed earlier, an LN is treated as a notice of audit or investigation. As such, a taxpayer's right to amend his tax returns within three years of filing becomes unavailable, inoperative pursuant to Section 6 of the 1997 Tax Code.

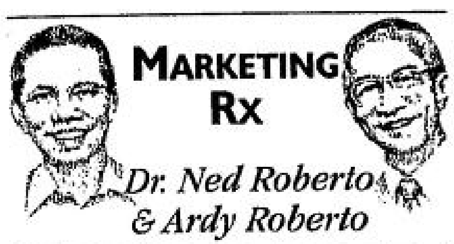
b. CIR may still issue a letter of authority. According to Section III (4) of RMO 42-03, the issuance of an LN does not prevent the CIR from issuing a letter of authority covering the comprehensive audit of taxpayer's tax liability. Furthermore, the LN is not treated as a waiver of the commissioner's right to look into the reasonableness of taxpayer's operating and administrative expenses.

Conclusion

So the next time we get mail from the BIR, we don't have to be afraid. The BIR letter could be something we are already familiar with, like an LN.

In which case, we now have a better idea what a Letter Notice is and how to tackle it.

Advice on pricing–II



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

LAST week we left off suggesting to a question from bag manufacturer from Cebu on how to price his products to do what Jollibee did when it product and price tested it's Champ which was set for "export" to San Francisco and Los Angeles.

We product tested with LA and SF tourists billeted at our five-star hotels. Three of these hotels consented to our doing the product test with their guests from Los Angeles and San Francisco. That's how we got the data necessary to answer that all-important question: "How do your target German and French consumers see your handbag? What values and features do they see in your handbags as distinctive or else below par versus competition?" So product test in Cebu hotels (where you already are) and in Davao hotels where you may find your German and French tourists.

Those perceived distinctive and below-par values now become the basis for your upward and downward adjusting of your beginning price.

Here's how.

Suppose your target consumers see positive distinctive values and features in your handbag that they say they do not find in your target competitor's handbag. Get your target consumers to evaluate the worth to them of these values and features. Then add this worth to your beginning price and that's your adjusted competitive pricing.

But suppose it's the other way around. Your target consumers see the positive distinctive values and features not in your handbag but in our target competitor's handbag. Again, get your target consumers to evaluate the worth to them of those values and features. Then subtract this worth from your beginning price and that becomes your adjusted competitive pricing.

Or you can shortcut the process by going directly at the price that the market will accept for your handbag, and which (at the same time) will yield for you your revenue-maximizing price. There is a simple and inexpensive way of doing this. The senior MRx-er developed this technique way back in 1984, refined it over the years and is now in its simplest but most robust form. You can find a full description of the technique and how to apply it yourself in the chapter on price sensitivity testing in the User-Friendly Marketing Research book.

Price sensitivity model

It's simple and robust because from just one survey question, this price sensitivity model will identify for you: (1) your revenue maximizing price, and (2) the extent to which you are in a price segmented market. That's two strategic market information from the data of only one survey question.

It is toward this revenue-maximizing price that you adjust your beginning price. It now becomes your adjusted competitive pricing.

Then you must take account of costs. Actually, most of us define our beginning price from there: price as a cost-plus concept. Cost plus profit define our floor price. It's the price where, if we could just have our way, we'd like to charge so that we recover all our cost plus have a reasonable return.

'Target-costing' approach to pricing

The market price sensitivity or revenue-maximizing pricing challenges the concept that you begin computing your price from the cost-plus or profitability pricing approach. Way back in the 1920s when Henry Ford introduced his historic T-Model and was pricing it, he said: "Set the price where the market wants it. Then let those people in manufacturing and finance manage costs to suit the price that the market wants. Let the market price force the costs down."

This concept has recently been resurrected by the Japanese and applied it as the "target costing" approach to pricing. Here's how the Japanese do it.

Start from the market sensitivity test pricing, namely, the revenue-maximizing price. Then subtract from this price your targeted profit. This leaves you the "target cost" to go after, that is, it's the total amount that your COG, distribution expenses, sales expenses, advertising and promo budget, financial expenses, administrative costs, and so on, cannot exceed. How can you do this?

In the cost-plus pricing approach, the assumption is that all the functional departments in charge of COG, distribution, sales, A&P, financial and admin expenses are efficient at doing their jobs. Market price sensitivity and target costing approach to pricing challenges this assumption. There are a lot of wastes in all these departments. Eliminate these wastes and thereby bring down costs until the final reduced total costs equal your target costs.

The end result is the market sensitivity tested pricing. That's the price level to bring up or down your beginning pricing. Notice that the price computation process brought you into taking into account the three major considerations in pricing:

(1) the competitive consideration,

(2) the consideration of market sensitivity to pricing, and

(3) costs and profit consideration.

Notice as well that for each consideration, a specific and a new concept of competitiveness, market sensitivity, and cost was utilized.

This seems like a lot of work, but in the end you will find that your decision to take the "road less taken" when it comes to pricing will reap you great rewards.

Keep your questions coming. Send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412.

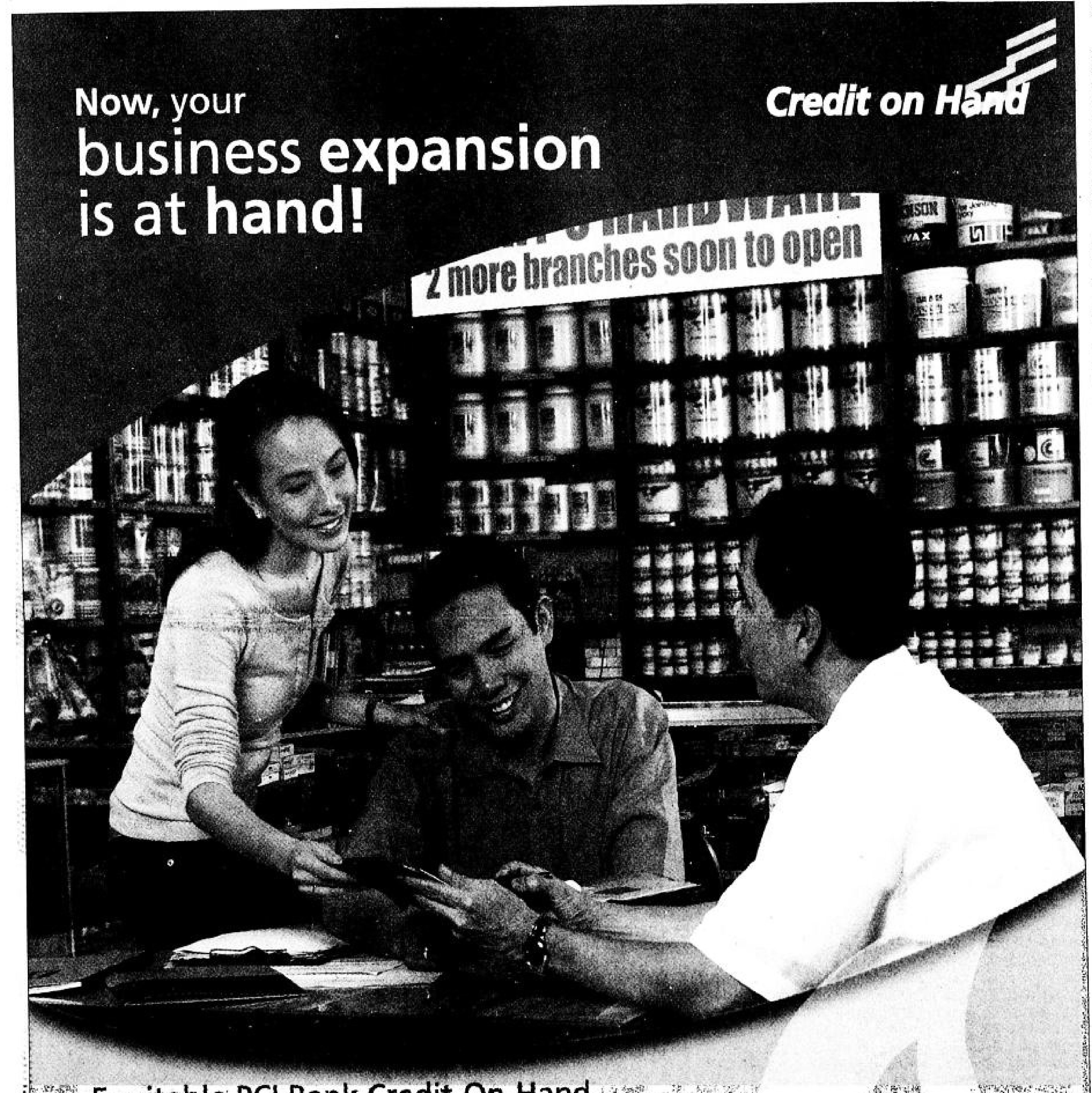
Sun teams up with vendors

SUN Cellular teams up with three of the world's biggest telecommunications companies—Hua Wei Technologies Inc., Ericsson and Alcatel—for a major network expansion program aimed at strengthening its capacity to accommodate as much as three million subscribers by midyear, and 6 million by year-end. Sun Cellular has 1,300 operational cell sites serving 1.7 million subscribers as of end-February this year.

Sun Cellular's subscriber base has been increasing dramatically since the network launched its pioneering 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited (CTU) in October last year. This groundbreaking, regular service allows post-paid and prepaid subscribers to make local Sun-to-Sun calls and text messages at a low, fixed rate.

In it effort to fast-track network expansion plans, Sun Cellular has earmarked $200 million to start implementing major network development projects originally set for next year. These programs are expected to efficiently and effectively increase capacity to accommodate the rapid growth of subscribers, to handle the uptrend in usage and network utilization.

World-renowned telecom firm Hua Wei Technologies of China will provide major network improvement by upgrading the existing GSM network in the National Capital Region (NCR) to cope with the demands of the 24/7 CTU programs. Hua Wei's commitment involves upgrading of, and adding to existing Main Switching Centers (MSCs), adding stand-alone Switching Transfer Points (STPs) and transfer switches. A new Core and additional Bay Station Subsystem (BSS) will also be integrated into the network elements, while upgrading 90 percent of the existing base stations and adding 350 new cell sites and 13 new Base Station Controllers (BSCs).


Now, your business expansion is at hand!
Credit on Hand
2 more branches soon to open

Equitable PCI Bank Credit-On-Hand.
The business loan within your reach!

For the right fit for your business needs, be it a working capital requirement, or the acquisition of equipment, Equitable PCI Bank Credit-On-Hand offers the convenience of a check-driven credit line facility, or a long-term loan that gives you affordable monthly installments.

- **Access your fund.** Simply write a check for your short-term financing needs.
- **Manage your cash flow.** Amortize your capital expenses with affordable monthly installments.
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Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

DUNKIN' DONUTS
Classics

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** ● TUESDAY **FITNESS** ● WEDNESDAY **2BU** ● THURSD… …DAY **FASHION & BEAUTY**

Growing up Juliana

Lucy Torres-Gomez's daughter takes after her in the fashion department

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan
Styling by Noel Manapat

I LOVE MOMMY!
On Juliana: Tweeners red crewneck cotton tee with graphic print (P299.75) and denim miniskirt with raw hem (P449.75). On Lucy: Herbench Chinese-collar woven blouse and denim miniskirt

"SHE'S like me in that we both like to dress up," says Lucy Torres-Gomez of Juliana, her daughter with actor-husband Richard Gomez.

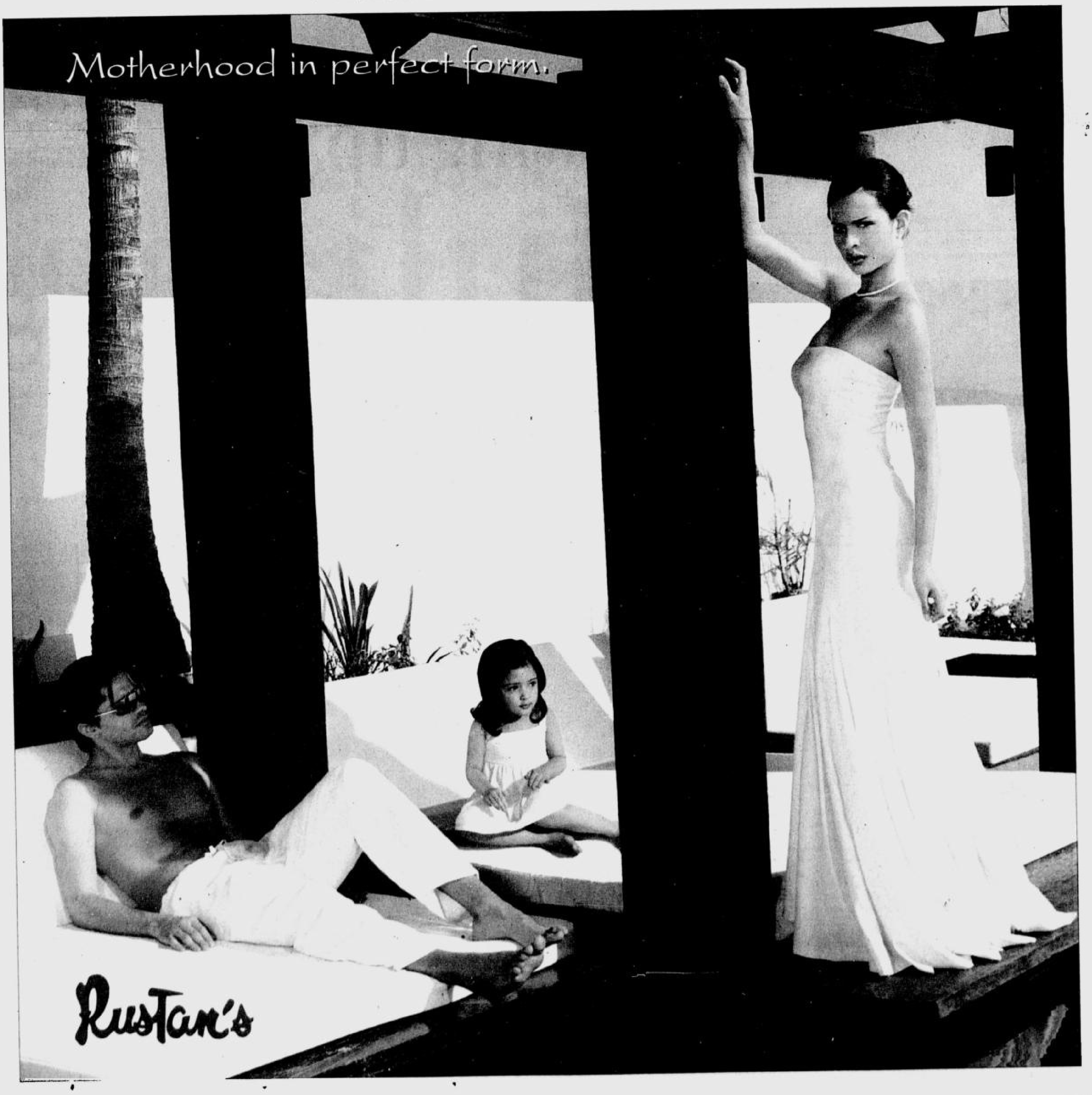
The only difference is that Juliana's fashion sense leans more toward Tessa Prieto-Valdes' flamboyant style, according to the 30-year-old mom.

"She likes to wear her party clothes and Halloween costumes at home," Torres-Gomez adds. "She plays in them. If she likes to wear a tiara, I let her. I indulge her because how many times can she wear her party clothes?"

Having been born to celebrity parents, the young girl grew up in the glare of flashbulbs. Inheriting both her parents' good looks—kibitzers agree she's becoming more beautiful as she grows older—Juliana, at 4 years old, is practically a veteran in front of the lens, having done advertising and fashion shoots since she was in her nappies.

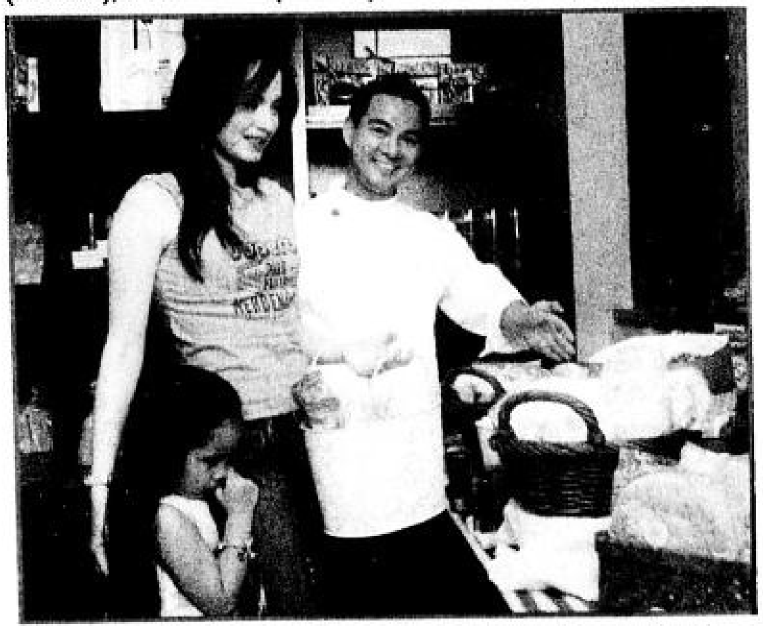
"Shoots are like play to her," says Torres-Gomez. Because she grew up in this environ-

GROWING/ C2



TEA TIME. On Lucy: Herbench yellow button-down shirt (P699.75). On Juliana: Tweeners knit cardigan (P599.75), crewneck tee (P299.75) and Kinderbench pink skirt (P499.75)

SUGAR AND SPICE. On Lucy: Herbench green button-down long-sleeve shirt (P699.75). On Juliana: Kinderbench tee (P269) and skirt (P449.75)



BABY GOT THE BLUES. On Lucy: Herbench top with graphic print (P329.75). On Juliana: Tweeners dress with satin bow (P699)

MOMMY'S LITTLE GIRL. On Juliana: Kinderbench tee with glittered print (P269). On Lucy: Herbench "Juicy"-print tee (P349.75)

PLAYTIME. On Lucy: Herbench vintage-print tee (P329.75). On Juliana: Tweeners sequined cardigan (P599) and pale-blue tank top (P249.75)

SWEETS CAKES. On Lucy: Herbench Sabrina top (P359.75) and floral skirt. On Juliana: Tweeners cardigan with crocheted flower detail (P699), floral dress (P699) and Herbench purse (P229.75)

Growing up Juliana

From page C1

ment, "she thinks this is what everyone does, that this is what's normal. When we do a shoot, she'd even ask me if we could take her best friend along."

Painfully shy

Not many know, however, that the Gomezes' cutie-pie can be painfully shy, especially around strangers, clinging to her mom the entire time. A Bench insider says, during shoots, they have to clown around to cajole the young girl and keep her from throwing a fit.

"Lucy would be very apologetic," says stylist Noel Manapat. "She'd even ask if we would need to re-shoot if we don't get the shot that we like."

"She got her shyness from me," Torres-Gomez explains of her daughter. "Her energy she got from her dad. It takes her some time to warm up to new people. That's why when we do shoots for magazines I always ask that they use the shots toward the end of the shoot for the cover. Her best photos are always when she has adjusted to the crowd."

And perhaps, a dose of something sweet also never fails to cheer up a child. In one of the layouts for this shoot, the young girl is asked to take a bite into one of Bizu's famous macaron de Paris. For the first time the entire morning, a hint of a smile creeps across the pretty girl's face.

Typical of young kids, more so an actor's child, Torres-Gomez says her daughter also likes to mimic what she sees on TV. "She likes the commercials."

Torres-Gomez says Juliana "turns into a little boy when she's with her dad. She gets rough. They do things together that I can't do with them. But we also do things together on our own."

Art classes

Her young daughter has started school, and this summer break the mother enrolled her daughter in art classes. "She hasn't taken to the swimming class, though. She dances the flamenco [like me]."

Having Juliana, says the mom, has all the more made her want to have more children. The difficult part is that "I'm always torn between giving in to what she wants and thinking about what would be best for her in the long run. She still doesn't understand."

She adds that compared to her husband, she's more likely to give in to Juliana's wishes.

She does spank, "but only with my hands," admits Torres-Gomez. "Most of the time, I ask her to stand in a corner."

When it comes to her child, Torres-Gomez says she always looks back to her childhood and learns from how her own mother raised her and her siblings.

"My mom is a very good mother... We were exposed to different things. Everything was [in moderation]. It wasn't, like, no to TV completely. That's how we were raised, and we all turned out okay."

It is Torres-Gomez's mom who's her yardstick for being a good mother. "I'd like to strike a balance between being a parent and a friend. That's how we are with our mom. We respect her, and we can tell her everything."

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SPECIAL THANKS TO AUDREY TANCO, CHEF RONNIE REYES AND TESS LAURENTE

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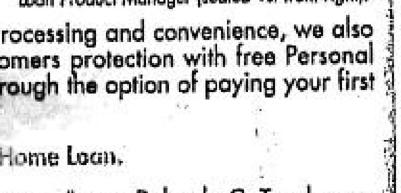

BDO Home Loan Account Officers together with Rolando C. Tanchanco, Executive Vice President and Group Head of Consumer Lending (seated 3rd from right); Anna Uy-Yap, Vice President and Marketing Head of Consumer Lending (seated 2nd from right); Mitzi Baylon-Romero, BDO Home Loan Product Manager (seated 1st from right).

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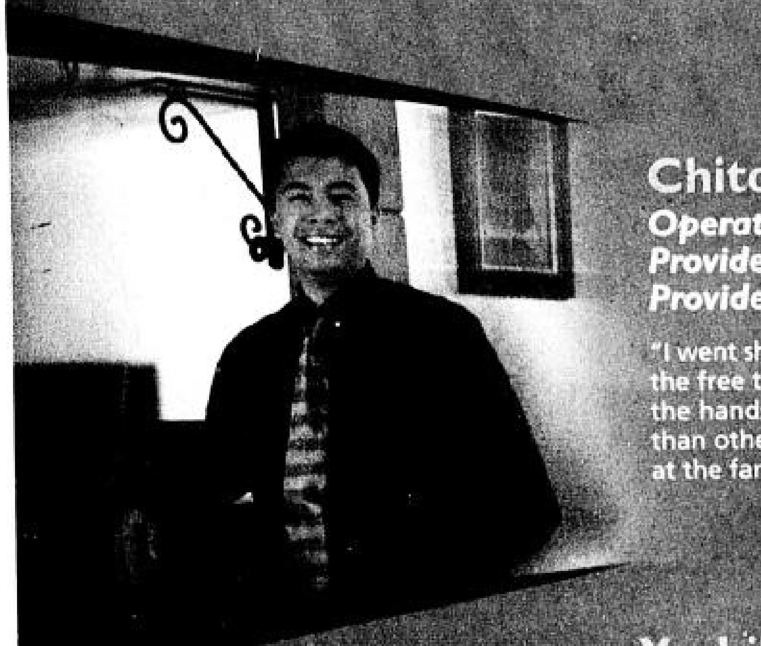


Chito Relampagos

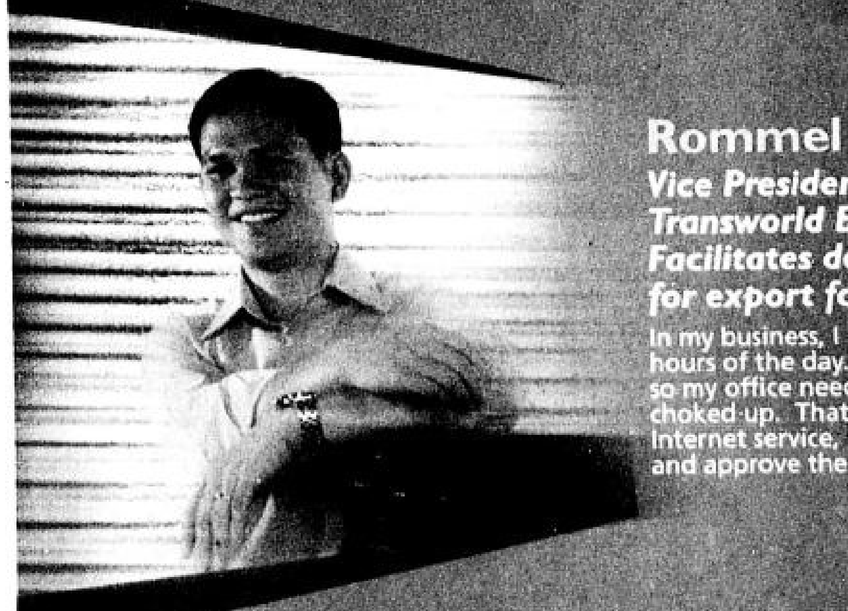
Operations Manager / Systems Administrator
Providence Solutions
Provides wholesale web and software development services

"I went shopping for the best Internet deal. I looked at quality, service, price and of course the free things they offer. I also asked my friends who've done the same thing. PLDT was the hands down winner. Besides its superior quality, the PLDT myDSL Biz offer is better than others in the market. I saved over P50,000! My advice: do the math and be amazed at the fantastic value you will get from the PLDT offer."

Yoshikawa Segwaben

Owner, Crash Proof Computer Café
President, Baguio Computer Networks Association

I run several Internet cafes right now. As I am managing my costs, I availed of the PLDTmyDSL Biz Lite Plan: the plan is good value-for money--I get the bandwidth speed I need plus a Free PC--no other plan in the market can give me equal value! Believe me, I've looked around. I'm happy with the deal PLDT gave me.



Rommel Roque

Vice President
Transworld Brokerage Corp.
Facilitates delivery of foreign goods and shipment of goods for export for big Philippine-based multinationals

In my business, I need to keep all my employees on-line as new shipments arrive at all hours of the day. All my employees constantly download heavy files over the Internet so my office needs to be supported by a big pipe to the Internet, else everything gets choked-up. That is why I chose to get PLDT myDSL Biz Junior! On top of the reliable Internet service, I got a free laptop to go with the package! Now, I can download files and approve them while I am in transit.

Victor Fabregas Alcuaz

President and CEO
Hospitality Staff Philippines Inc. (HSPI)
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"I looked for the best deal when I went shopping for a DSL connection and I found that PLDT myDSL gave me the best values: I got the bandwidth I need to power up all the PCs in my office and I got a free PC to boot! No hassles, no complicated mechanics, no strings attached ---- they connected my line immediately and delivered my PC."

JM Buhain

Owner, Ivydotcom Internet Café
Naic, Cavite

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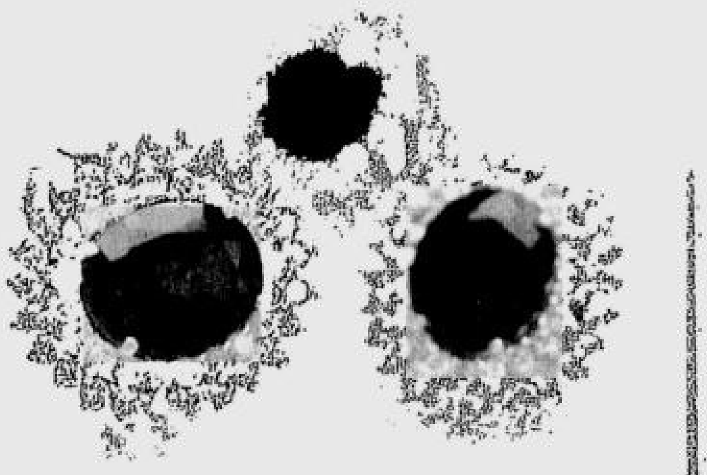

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OCEANIC 1911 makes the choice of Mother's Day gift less difficult with its wide range of fine jewelry and gifts.

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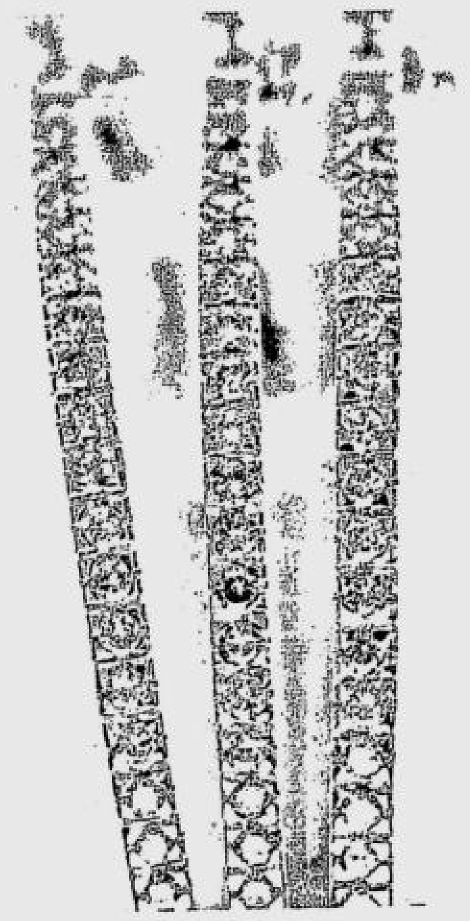
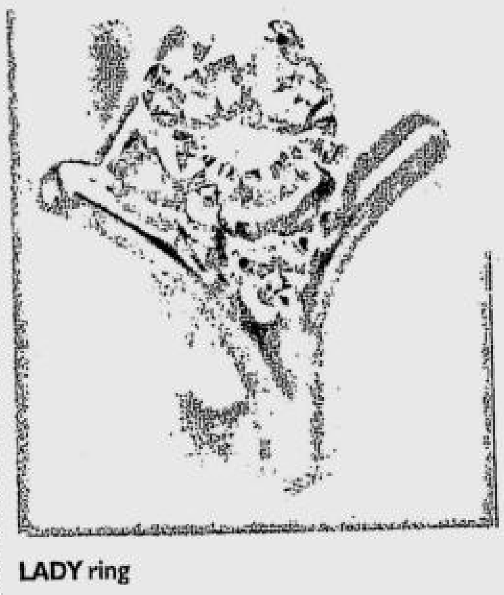


TRI-COLOR bangle bracelet



LADY ring

CROSS pendant with princess-cut stone

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2005

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JULIANA takes after Lucy /C1

Advice to aspiring lifestyle writers

It's a job, and not about perks and freebies

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

IN A RECENT interview for Newsbreak magazine's story on lifestyle sections and glossies, its writer **Carmela Fonbuena** asked us why many of today's journalism students want to specialize in lifestyle coverage. What do we think is the reason?

That was news to us. We didn't know that many of these kids want to be lifestyle writers. Two decades ago, I was like an oddball, no, I was the oddball, in the newsroom always making a pitch for stories on fashion, food, culture and the arts to land on the front page.

I had to fight tooth and nail for them (sometimes quite literally). Lifestyle then wasn't considered mainstream news, it was the "periphery" and it stayed in the periphery, paling in importance alongside hard news.

In the old Times Journal and the Manila Chronicle, we had to prove not only the legitimacy of a lifestyle section, but also that it had the drawing power, both in readership and advertising.

Today Lifestyle isn't only a section, it is a priority coverage of even news weeklies such as Time and Newsweek which put, now and then, issues on health, diet, fashion and the like on their covers.

This didn't happen overnight, though. Through time, media began reading the pulse correctly—people are into designing their lives. They're after the quality of life, whether it be in food, culture or fashion, even parenting.

Now, lifestyle journalism is getting to be popular among young writers, many of whom think writing about fashion is all glam, and they can get to wear all those freebie brands.

Read and read more

So before my flab atrophies (my mind along with it), may I give this perhaps unwelcome advice to wannabe lifestyle/fashion journalists (including the published ones)?

1) Know your dangling modifier before, or even better than, your dangling earrings. Over the weekend, just poring over a book, I saw more dangling modifiers than the chandelier earrings in the Greenhills *tiangge*.

Point is, know your craft—which is writing, in case you've forgotten, and that begins with grammar. And it continues with reading. One has to read up to learn so that one doesn't waste the reader's time. We're in the business of information, you know, information readers can use. We have no business writing about business we know little or nothing about.

2) It's a job. You have a job to do. It's not about perks and freebies. Pay your dues first, and if you enjoy the job, better. Enjoy the creative journey.

3) You don't have to be a bitch (to get noticed). It's not a requirement. If what the job needed was a bitch, you'd be better off on reality TV. (But I don't think the **Rosanna Roceses** of this world are retiring in your lifetime.)

4) Writing is not catfighting. People want to see your mind, what you have up there, not your claws. If they wanted claws, they could just adopt a stray cat.

5) Acid merely burns the stomach, leaves nothing for the mind. We're talking writing style.

6) You're not a brand dispenser. Stringing the names of brands in sentence after sentence isn't lifestyle reportage. It's home TV shopping.

7) Celebrities come with the territory. If these people have egos bigger than your take-home pay, live with it; they are copy. You're supposed to write them up, not live in with them for life anyway.

8) **Ricco** and **Tina** are not the enemy—a couple who has been bashed, re-bashed, in the local lifestyle universe. All right, we get the point. It's overkill. It's overdose. The punchline is dead. Now can we move on? What we mean is, writing is meant to be an art. Character-bashing is just martial arts.

9) Grow up. The fashion runway is not the real life.

10) Respect and be responsible for the written word. People have lived and died for it.

11) Finally, it's not about you. It's about your reader. You don't write just to become a celebrity. You write because you have a duty to your reader.

Thrown out of paradise

Last Sunday, some of **Louie Cruz**'s friends had a sudden change of venue for Louie's birthday celebration—from Boracay to Manila. Friends were supposed to fly to Boracay but just stayed put here because Louie was here. They got a bigger surprise—they learned that Louie could lose his McSandro resto on the island. It seems he's being kicked out of paradise.

This, while others are on their way to opening in Boracay. **Alvin Carranza** has just opened his Café Lupe there. **Larry Cruz** is eyeing a Café Havana in Boracay.

People are checking out Larry's Bollywood, specifically the mutton curry and the lamb. And, dining al fresco in the terrace (yes, a terrace in Greenbelt) overlooking New World can be de-stressing.

Bidding war

We read about the bidding war between People magazine and Us Weekly over the photos of **Brad Pitt** and **Angelina Jolie** "cavorting" on the beach—taken way before he split up with **Jennifer Aniston**. Who won? Us (reportedly $1 million bid) over People's $500,000.

E-mail the author at thelma_ssanjuan@abs.pinoycentral.com

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ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

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Rustan's Makati

MISS LYCEUM pageant judge Robin Horsman, vivaciously pretty Nani Laurel, Danny Limjap and Butch Syquia

RICKY Laurel with Ruth Luciano, AB Mass Com student and Miss Lyceum candidate; Nina Hazel Ong, AB Mass Com student, and Raezsa Camille Samia, BS Tourism student

LYCEUM'S first *famille*. Lawyer Bobby Laurel and wife, fashionable Southern lady Jocelyn Germperle L. (right), with Maria Katrina Castro, Miss Lyceum first runner-up

Another future national beauty queen?

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

LAST year's Miss Lyceum, **Tamera Marie Szijarto**, a gorgeous Fil-Hungarian beauty, went on to become Miss Earth 2004.

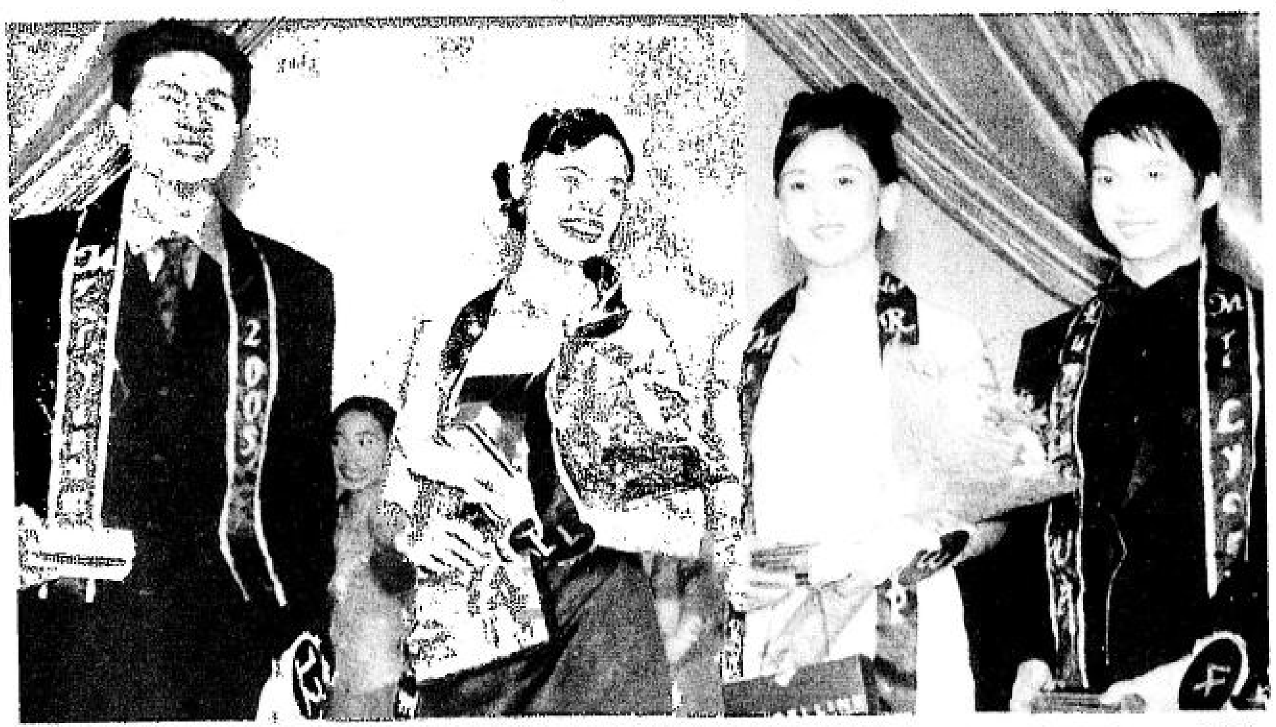
So this year, organizers of the super exciting Mr. and Miss Lyceum of the Philippines left no stone unturned in coming up with an elaborate pageant, part of Lyceum (my alma mater) Foundation Day celebrations.

Heading the brilliant pack making the preparations were dean of student affairs **Randy Sacdalan** and faculty member **Rosemarie Ampil**, who single-handedly and superbly took care of physical and technical arrangements, making sure the event was colorful, fast-paced and successful. Well, it definitely was, *palanggas*.

A pre-pageant selection brought the number of contestants, from the school's different colleges, down from 41 to just 15—nine girls and six boys.

Après the voting of the judges, tall, attractive **Christian Leonell Pujante**, a Bachelor of Science in Tourism student, was crowned Mr. Lyceum 2005 with **Toby Vigal**, BS Foreign Service, as first runner-up. Filipino-German **Margo Laine Vaclavek**, BS Nursing, was chosen Miss Lyceum 2005, with **Maria Katrina Castro**, BS Foreign Service, first runner-up.

The board of judges was celebrity-studded: Lyceum's first lady, gorgeous Southern belle **Jocelyn Gemperle Laurel** with her husband, dashing Lyceum president, **Bobby Laurel**; wellness and beauty advocate, television host, author, and INQUIRER's popular columnist, **Cory Quirino**; yours truly, who earned a BS Foreign Service degree from Lyceum; multi-awarded fashion designer **Frederick Peralta**, another Lyceum alumnus; Rep. **Joey Hizon** of Manila's fifth district; face and body rejuvenation director of Marie France, the world-class Svenson and Facial Care, hotshot **Robin Horsman**; and fun Southern gent **Anton Corro**, hot director for customer relations of Mastercard International, *palanggas*.



CHRISTIAN Leonell Pujante (BS Tourism), Mr. Lyceum 2005; Margo Laine Vaclavek (BS Nursing), Miss Lyceum 2005; Maria Katrina Castro (BS Foreign Service), Miss Lyceum first runner-up; and Toby Vigal (BS Foreign Service), Mr. Lyceum first runner-up

TAMERA Marie L. Szijarto, BS in Computer Engineering student and Miss Lyceum 2004, won the Miss Earth 2004 title.

MISS Body Beautiful herself, Cory Quirino, and *moi*

WE LOVE NIKE. Pierra Calasanz and Kitty Espiritu

MOTHER and daughter. Stephanie and Christina Ngo

A fun cocktail reception at the foyer of the school's Freedom Hall followed *après* the tense and exciting final pageant. The school's top officers and members of its excellent faculty, together with some VIPs, had the chance to get to know the—by now—more relaxed winners better.

Already, *moi* was told there were already plans to stage an even bigger event next year.

Leave it to the Lyceum to come up with super cool activities for the school year, *palanggas*.

Now you know why I chose to get my BSFS degree, there, huh.

GORGEOUS models Ornussa and Dara Cadness show off Nike's new Spring/Summer Collection.

PELE he's not, but a football enthusiast he is—Pepper Teehankee.

New love affair

Hey, *palanggas*, guess what? Nike's got a new love affair. With whom, you may ask. Well, with fashion, that's who.

The world leader in athletic products shifted its focus from the sporting world, into the fashion scene.

Nike's vision allows for the convergence of sport and style, not only at a sports stadium, but even at a *tres* stylish afternoon cocktail. You can easily find Nike's Active Collection's new "fashion face" in various athletic activities, as well as in the venues for Manille's energetic nightlife.

During a fab sneak preview at the hippest nightspot in town, the posh Embassy Club, natch, Nike invited 30 of Manille's elite stylists and fashionable personas to an exclusive gathering to watch Nike's 2005 Summer Collection, fusing fashion and sport in a creative evening of style.

The collaboration of some of the best in the Philippine fashion industry like **Rosario Herrera, Robbie Carmona, Victor Consunji, Xeng Zulueta**, and my Supah pal, **Tim Yap**, created super dynamic new looks using items from the new Active line.

"From the sensuality of the Ipanema beaches in Rio de Janeiro, to the beautiful martial art of Capoiera, to the soulful love and joy of Brasilian dance, and to the rich heritage and national love for football, Nike's first offering from its Active [line], hints at more and more exciting things to come for Filipino fashionistas everywhere," fashionable and cybersmart headturner **Deeda Pama** said.

Check out Nike's cool Summer 2005 Active Collection available at the Nike Attitude stores at 2/L, Eastwood Citywalk 2; 5/L, Shangri-La Plaza Mall; and 2/L, Robinsons Place, Bacolod.

It's already an awesome winner, *palanggas*.

STYLISH GANG. Victor Consunji, Charmaine Palermo, our very own Tim Yap, Shu Uemura's Xeng Zulueta and top choreographer Robby Carmona

CLOSE-UP TIME. Celine Novenario and Tamara de Guzman

FASHIONABLE Carla Sibal and Ana Kalaw

PREVIEW magazine's hot gals. Pauline Suaco and sultry Isha Andaya

JENNI Epperson of INQUIRER Just Shop, with GP Reyes, who superbly organized the Nike event

Victory bash

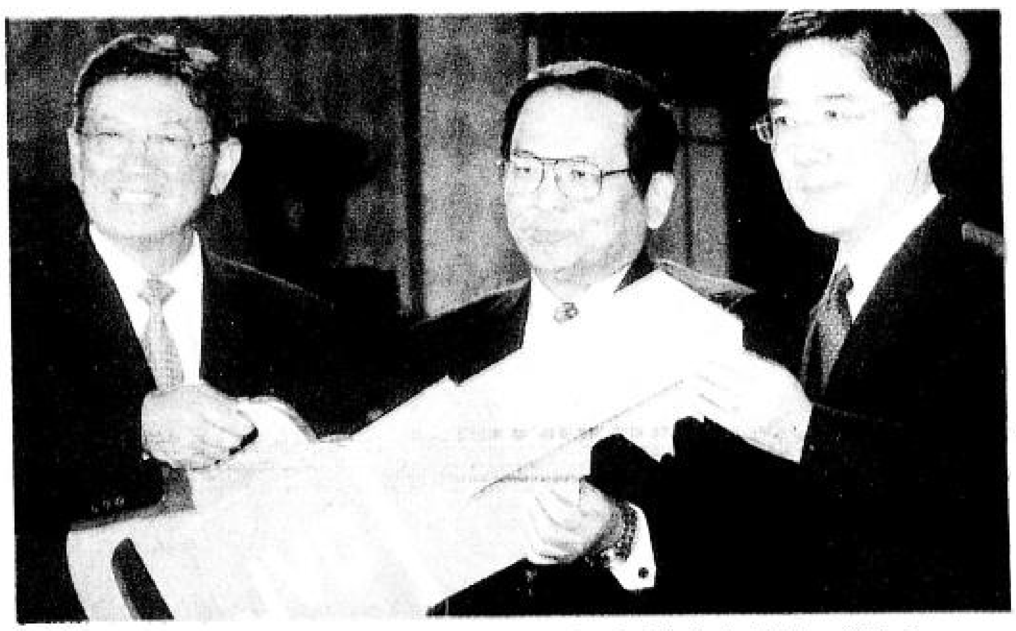
The leader of the pack in bringing the best, state-of-the-art music technology, the one-of-a-kind JVC gave a bash to celebrate its eight years of success in the Philippines. The fab dinner event was dubbed "V8," which stands for Victory Eight, natch!

Held at the colossal Makati Shangri-La Hotel, this fantastic evening of music and celebration coincided with the retirement of current president and chief executive officer, **Toshinori Yokokawa**.

Leading JVC Philippines to the top, Toshinori Y "has been a figure of admirable dedication and leadership to colleagues and business partners. With his eight years of dedicated leadership, he leaves JVC (Philippines) Inc., with an imprint of stability. His respectable track record has certainly placed the Philippines in the JVC world map," said JVC chair, lawyer **Faustino Salud**, in his opening remarks.

Taking over as JVC president and CEO is brilliant **Hideyuki Takato**, who has an impressive string of accomplishments in marketing and sales all over Japan.

Following an excellently prepared sit-down dinner, the real fun began, *palanggas*, with a musical extravaganza called "The Best of Broadway" by the Philippine Opera Company. The program, hosted by one of the best faces on TV, cool broadcast icon **Korina Sanchez**, no less, was truly a reflection of JVC's constant commitment in bringing only the best in audio technology toward higher notes for all of us, *palanggas*.



THREE JVC (Philippines) Inc. hotshots. Lawyer Faustino Salud, chair; Toshinori Yokokawa, outgoing president and CEO; and Hideyuki Takato, incoming president and CEO

GREEN Court Badminton Center's top man, Toti Hechanova, George Salud, Irene Salud, TV's Korina Sanchez, Ollie Salud Hechanova, and Gina Salud Rodriguez

WOMEN of substance. Gift Gate's Virgie Ramos with popular Sen. Loi Ejercito and JVC's first lady, Conchinita Salud

POPULAR couple. Dennis Salud and wife Liza Berroya

THUMBS UP! Norio Seki, Toshinori Yokokawa, Kazue Salud, former President Fidel V. Ramos with wife, Amelita Ramos

Chinese artist mounts first Manila show

JINYING, who was born in 1952 in Beijing, China, is mounting her first one-woman show in Manila at the Asia Art Gallery, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, on May 7-14.

The exhibit will serve not only as a fitting gift to the city she has grown to love, but also as a testimony to her commitment in continuing to explore her artistic gifts. Which is not surprising, since Jinying's father had always taken her to see Chinese operas and art exhibitions.

At a very young age, Jinying was already aware of the different art techniques and modes of expression that painters exhibit. She was already learning to draw and paint at age seven.

However, during the Cultural Revolution in China in the 1960s, Jinying was forced to stop drawing and painting.

After getting married to Councilor Yan, Jinying then worked as a librarian in a public library. In 1988, Yan was assigned in Pakistan, where Jinying met Chinese painter Wei Ming, who gave her many books on Chinese painting.

Jinying copied many Chinese paintings with the use of a Chinese brush and Chinese ink, against the advice of her mentor to start with a pencil. Jinying knew that her foundations in Chinese painting were still intact, and drew from the basic techniques that she learned early on. She would not exactly copy what she saw in those books. By adding her own ideas, she ended up improving on the originals.

She was also very fortunate to observe and learn from Zhao Yufeng back in Beijing. The late Yu Zhi Zeng, who taught many students, is another major artistic influence. When she and her husband moved to Thailand in 1995, she met Thai painter Lin Yao, a master of Chinese painting.

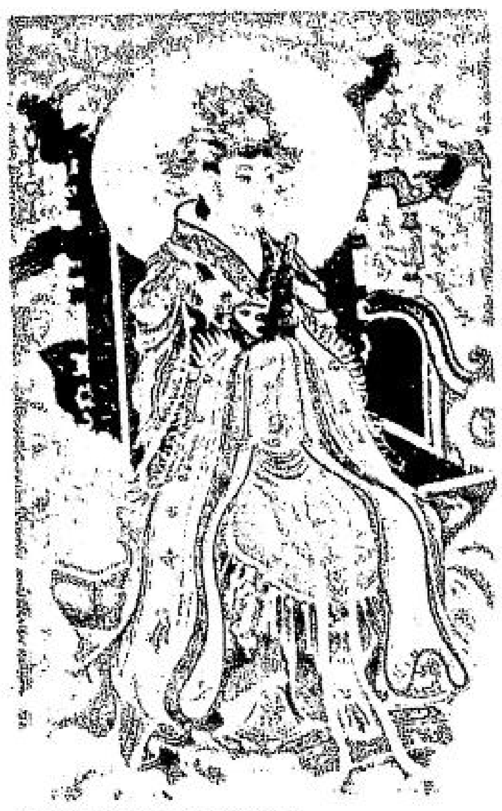
In an effort to discover her own painting style, she has begun adapting some standards of Western painting. Her goal is to stick with techniques of Chinese painting, but also carry on with the spirit of Western painting.

One can see the predominance of lines in her Yongle Palace Murals series, as well as Gongbi painting (fine brushwork in traditional Chinese painting) in her lotus series. She believes that the character of the painter eventually can be seen in his or her works. And it is evident in the purity, innocence, and quiet elegance of Jinying's pieces.

She and her husband have previously collaborated on an exhibit at the Manila Hotel in 2003. Jinying is looking forward to see another productive exchange of cultures with Filipino counterparts.

Call 6321433.

CHINESE painter Jinying


"JADE Maiden," by Jinying

Attention Exhibitors and Entrepreneurs!!
Tiangge
St. Francis SQUARE
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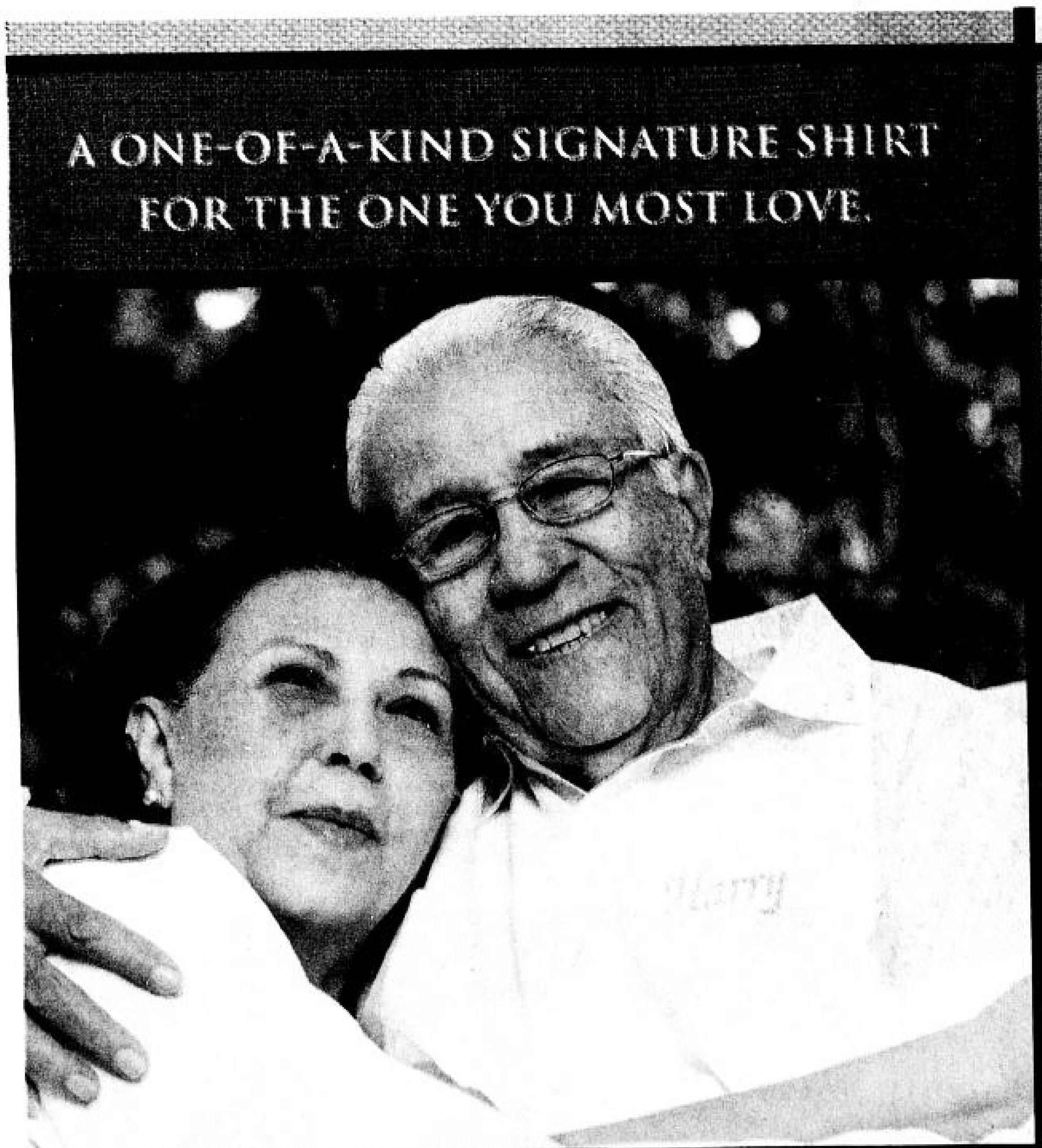

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MOM & ME
May 7-8

Now, more than any other day, say, "Thank you, mom."
Here are the many ways...

- Pachinko Excitement
May 8, Via Moda
12:00 Noon – 8:00 PM
Exciting prizes are at stake when you play our Pachinko game! To join, just present your receipt purchase of P1,000 on May 8, at the 2/L Via Moda promo booth.
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A2-232 SERIES OF 2005

- In the Kitchen with Mom
May 7, Via Moda
2:00 PM
Whip up amazing dishes in this cooking workshop for moms and kids from Cooking Basics. Your minimum purchase of P1,000 from April 22 – May 7, 12 noon qualifies you to join.
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A2-233 SERIES OF 2005

May 8, Pixie Forest
2:00 PM
Moms and kids continue to bond as they learn more kitchen basics through this Cooking Workshop by Cravings.

- Mother's Day Gift Display
April 22 – May 8,
2/L Main Entrance
Find the perfect Mother's Day gift from the Gift Ideas for Mommy display!

- Perfume Making Workshop by EBW
May 7, Via Moda
3:00 PM
Join Mom for an afternoon of fun and fragrance! With only a minimum purchase of P1,000 from April 22 – May 8, you can already sign up for our Perfume Making Workshop.
PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A2-234 SERIES OF 2005

- Moms in Style
May 7, Via Moda
5:00 PM
Take Mom to the Fashion Show for Moms at Via Moda, and remind her how dazzling she can be!

Sponsors:
Alfa • Ageless • Characters Unlimited • Cooking Basics • Cravings • David's Day Spa • Delifrance • Dermstrata • EBW • Ensembles • ForMe • Healthway • Jollibee • Loud Productions • Manels • Maui Pearls • Mondi • Natural Art • Parque España • Photoline • Renditions • Robinsons • Save More • Shakey's • Shopwise • Siam Taste • Teriyaki Boy • Tubby • YSA Skincare • Ystilo • Double Delight Oreo®

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Tribute to mothers

GOINGS ON

A MOTHER's Day flower and garden show is ongoing until May 8 at the ground floor atrium of the Star Group of Malls. Ikebana expert Serapion Metilla will feature bonsai and flower arrangements, landscape techniques, Zen garden and ornamental plant arts. Admission is free. A free Mother's Day mall show is set tomorrow, 5 p.m., at Metropolis Star Alabang and on May 8, 4 p.m., at Starmall Edsa. Starmall Las Piñas offers free Pilates, yoga, belly dancing, flamenco and salsa classes for moms until May 31. Call 7244992/ 8725249.

CONCERT. The Paulinian Music Ensemble, Manila takes center stage at 6 p.m. in Paco Park Presents. Admission is free.

WORKSHOPS. Festival Supermall will have a "Mom and Me" promo tomorrow and on May 8. There will be cooking, and perfume and cologne-making workshops for both moms and kids. Whip up dishes like Sylvana Nuggets and Rocky Road Balls in the cooking workshops tomorrow, 2 p.m., at the Via Moda, and Cravings on May 8, 2 p.m., at Pixie Forest, 3/L. A fashion show will be held tomorrow, 2 p.m., at Via Moda, 2/L. The Mother's Day Pachingko Game will have lucky mall-goers win instant prizes with every P1,000 purchase from any Festival Supermall tenant on May 8.

The Sustagen Action Kids mall tour at the Carousel Court is ongoing until May 8.

DANCE. Ballet at the Park features Ballet Manila and Kultura Pilipina tomorrow, 5-p.m., at Rizal Park open-air auditorium. Admission is free.

DOG WALK. The Philippine Canine Club will hold Dog Walk for a Cause Luv Ko Si Bantay on May 8. Registration starts at 5 a.m. at Rajah Soliman Park, Roxas Blvd., Malate, Manila. The walk will cover a distance of at least 4.8 kms. Call 0915-5517486/ 0916-6471921.

MUSICAL. Concert at the Park presents WUDS on May 8 , 6 p.m., at Rizal Park open-air auditorium. The rock group is composed of Bobby Balingit (lead guitar/vocals), Aji Adriano (drums and percussion) and Alfred Guevara (bass guitar/vocals). Admission is free.

DR. JOSE Mananzan

SEMINAR. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will hold a photography seminar for kids on May 10-12 at Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. It will be open to children aged 7-12. Call 8435341/ 8137420.

SALE. Festival Supermalls' Triple Weekend Sale will be ongoing till May 15. Enjoy discounts of up to 50 percent for selected items plus the chance to win cellular phones for every P500 purchase from any shop. Likewise, triple your chances of winning with your East West Bank MasterCard. On May 15, there will be a 2005 FCAAF Interschool Lion Dance Competition at Carousel Court. Festival Mall is located at Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa. Call 8503514.

ANNIVERSARY. The graduates of class 1955 of Mapua Institute of Technology will hold their golden jubilee on May 21 at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Ortigas Center. The affair will kick off with a luncheon and symposium on the "50 Years of Building Infrastructures" by keynote speaker Dr. William Torres, president and CEO of Moscom Internet Services, Inc. Chairman of class '55 golden anniversary is Dr. Jose Mananzan. Call 5277498/ 8908155/ 8449124/ 4372587/ 7129759.

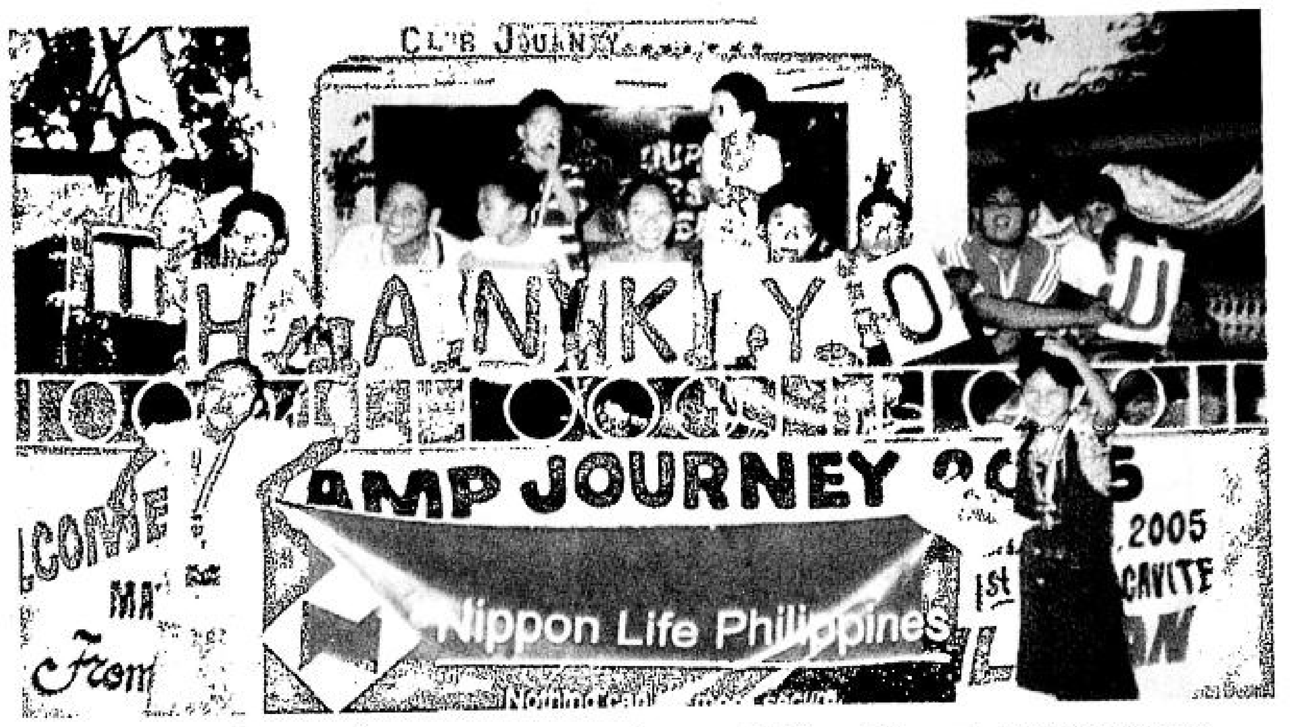
FAIR. Pet One mounts Puppy Luv a Fair on May 21-22, 2 p.m., at the Plaza Strip of Rockwell Power Plant Mall. The event will gather top dog breeders who will showcase different puppy breeds and share their expertise in caring for these canine wonders. Call 4155413/ 3730537.

FAIR. Jobs Fair Caravan 2005 will be held on May 23-29 at Ma. Orosa Atrium of Robinson's Place Manila. On-site interviews and job offers would be featured during the event from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Interested applicants may bring their resumés. The Jobs Fair Caravan is also slated on June 11-17 at Robinson's Starmills Pampanga, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Call Philtrade Exhibits at 8253482/ 8250804.

SEMINAR. The Center for Human Research and Development Foundation Inc. will hold a seminar-workshop on Collection Management in a Digital Environment on July 11-12 at Philippine Business for Social Progress, PBSP Building, Real cor. Magallanes Sts., Intramuros, Manila. Call 9279858.

BOOK FAIR. The Association of Booksellers for the Academe and the Professions will hold the 9th Philippine Academic Bookfair on July 11-15 at PTA Tent-Clamshell 2, Intramuros, Manila. Call 9279858.

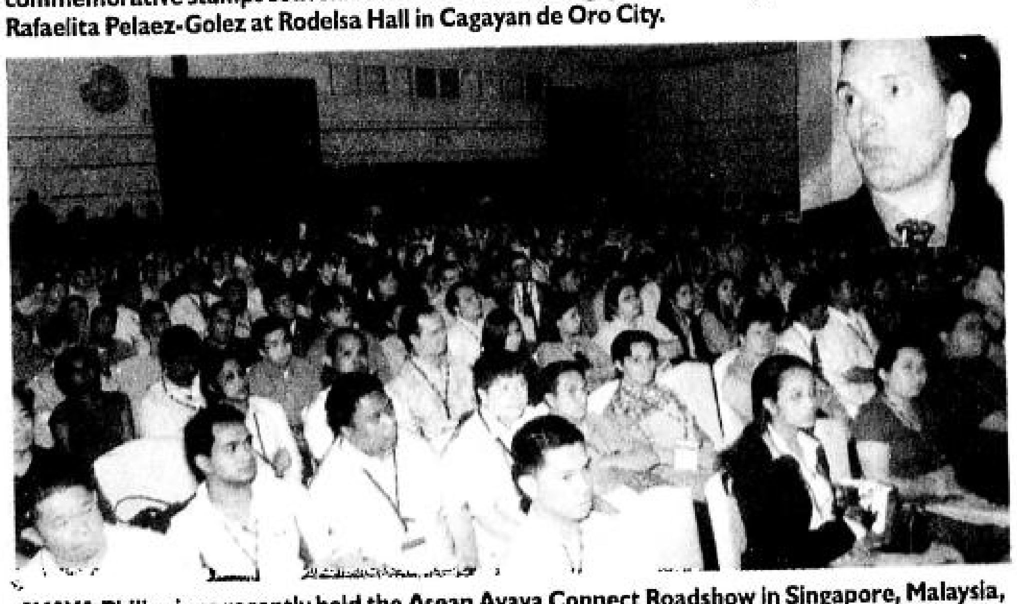
FINISHING TOUCHES. The Manansala, Rockwell Center's new 41-storey residential landmark is now going through finishing touches. Rockwell Land will turn over its 618 units to owners beginning July.



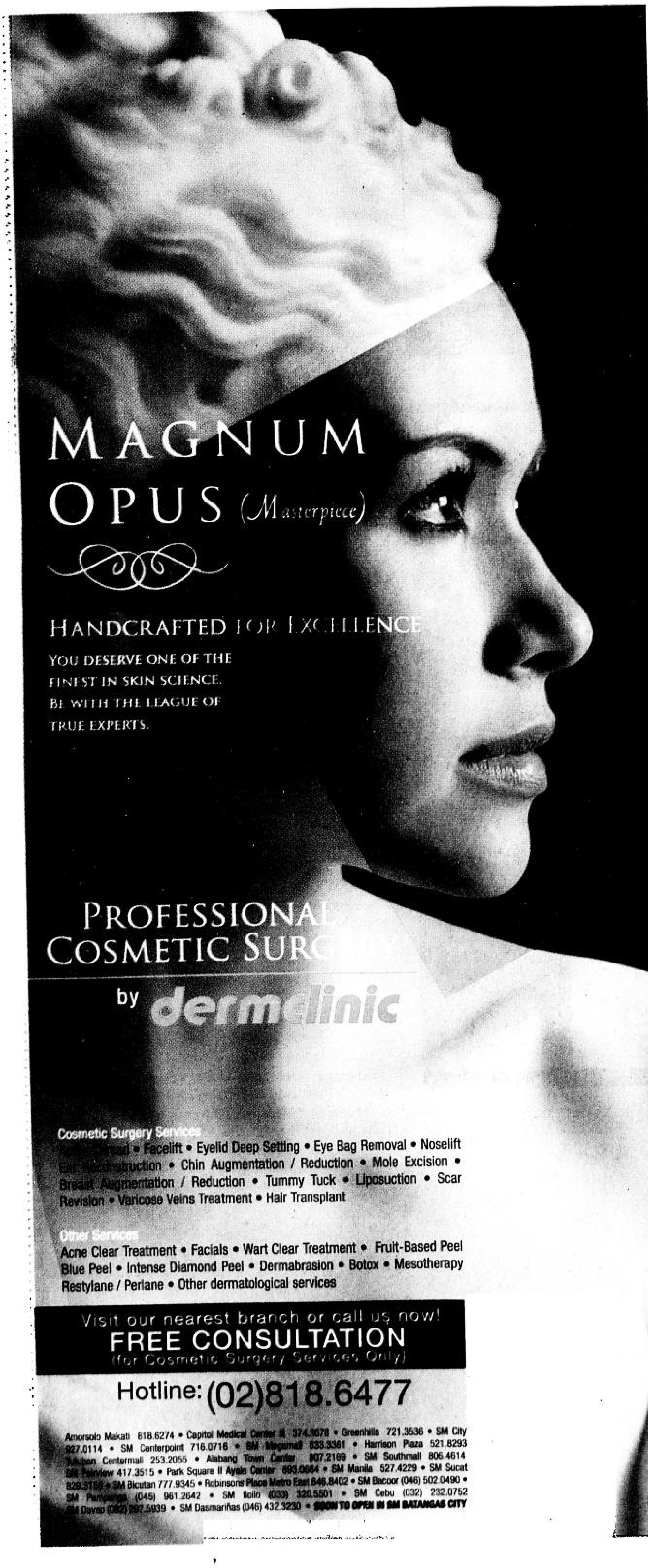
NIPPON Life Philippines, through the efforts of its Group Insurance Division and Corporate Affairs Department, recently sponsored the 1st annual seven-day summer camp for special children, Camp Journey, at Malagsang First Elementary School in Imus, Cavite. Photo shows some of the campers saying "Thank You" to their mentors and Nippon Life Philippines.

THE SULO Hotel recently hosted the Miss Asia Pacific International winner and candidates. Photo shows Leandro Enriquez (far right), president and CEO of Sulo Hotel and founder of the beauty contest, with son Enrique. The beauty queens are Eugenia Lapova, Miss Russia and Miss Asia Pacific International 1st runner-up; Christine de Jesus, Miss Tourism International; and Olivia Laniova, Miss Slovak Republic.

POSTMASTER General Dario Rama of the Philippine Postal Corporation, together with PhilPost Region 10 manager Hussin Masdal, recently presented the 50th anniversary commemorative stamps souvenir frame to Liceo de Cagayan University president Dr. Rafaelita Pelaez-Golez at Rodelsa Hall in Cagayan de Oro City.



AVAYA Philippines recently held the Asean Avaya Connect Roadshow in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines. James Haensly (inset), chief technology officer of Avaya Asia-Pacific, presented Avaya's IP telephony offerings during the event.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Burn-less fun under the sun

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

GUESS where I just came from? El Nido, Palawan! Shiseido's dynamic duo of Donna Faylona and her assistant Marianne recently brought a handful of beauty writers and editors to El Nido to have us experience the Shiseido Suncare line firsthand.

I was expecting at least an hour of presentation and lecture, but it turned out they were very confident about their products that they gave us a Shiseido kit with the essentials inside, and an entire day of activities that allowed us to test and enjoy the products.

In my kit were an SPF 34++ Extra Smooth Sun Protection lotion, After Sun Soothing Gel, Brilliant Bronze Self-tanning Emulsion (which everyone but yours truly used liberally) and the Ultimate Cleansing Oil for face and body, the only thing that could completely remove all the non-sticky concoctions at the end of the day.

My fear of getting too dark made me long to have Shiseido's SPF 50 sunblock for face and body, but I was surprised at how good the SPF 34 was when patiently reapplied. It was actually sand-proof and not sticky at all.

I rolled around in the sand and brushed it off my body, and it practically just flew off me. That was one pet peeve crossed out! You could even layer it on without feeling grimy, because although it does its job protecting you, it doesn't feel thick and uncomfortable on your skin.

The After Sun Cooling Gel was wonderful for areas that roasted, since it was too much bother to reach them to reapply sunblock. This helped us sleep better at night with no sunburn discomfort.

My roommate, Celine, looked like a hot Bond girl in all her bronzed glory due to patient application of the Shiseido bronzing emulsion, but I still couldn't bring myself to follow suit and part with my signature Goth look.

Every morning, without anyone's knowledge, I would apply Shiseido's SPF 43++ foundation to keep my face matte, flawless-looking and protected, which is my staple in Manila. Thus, my face stayed lighter than the rest of my body, as I would also reapply sunblock on top of the foundation.

In the evening, the only way to wash out all those water-resistant emulsions was to apply Shiseido's ultimate cleansing oil all over the skin, massaging it on and rinsing it off in the shower.

Result: Skin was left smooth and residue-free clean. I also brought my personal stash of Shiseido's SPF 30++ lip balm, as it has the highest protection levels and really hydrates and protects my very dry, prone-to-burning lips.

Under control

It was no joke wading in the water, exploring caves, snorkeling and living in bathing suits the whole day. I was proud to say my cellulite and water retention was under control, despite my being at the height of PMS, due to Shiseido's Body Creator.

This product can shrink thighs a bit, smoothen dimpled skin and squeeze out excess water stored during this drastic period in every girl's life. Long live thermogenics, caffeine and kelp combination!

My companions also had Shiseido Spray for hair and skin in SPF 16, and as with all Shiseido suncare products, they all had this clean, slightly floral-cum-aquatic smell.

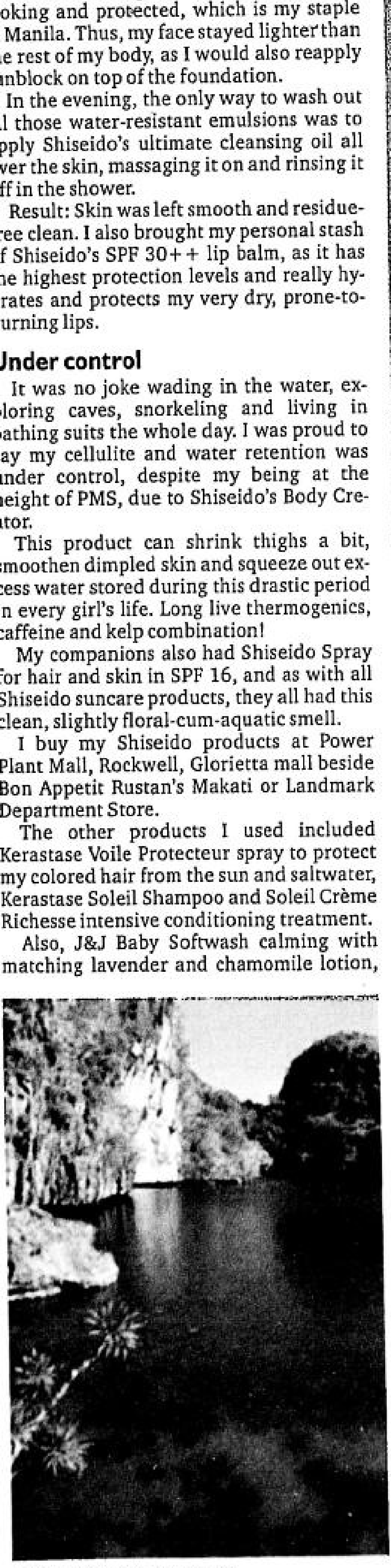
I buy my Shiseido products at Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Glorietta mall beside Bon Appetit Rustan's Makati or Landmark Department Store.

The other products I used included Kerastase Voile Protecteur spray to protect my colored hair from the sun and saltwater, Kerastase Soleil Shampoo and Soleil Crème Richesse intensive conditioning treatment.

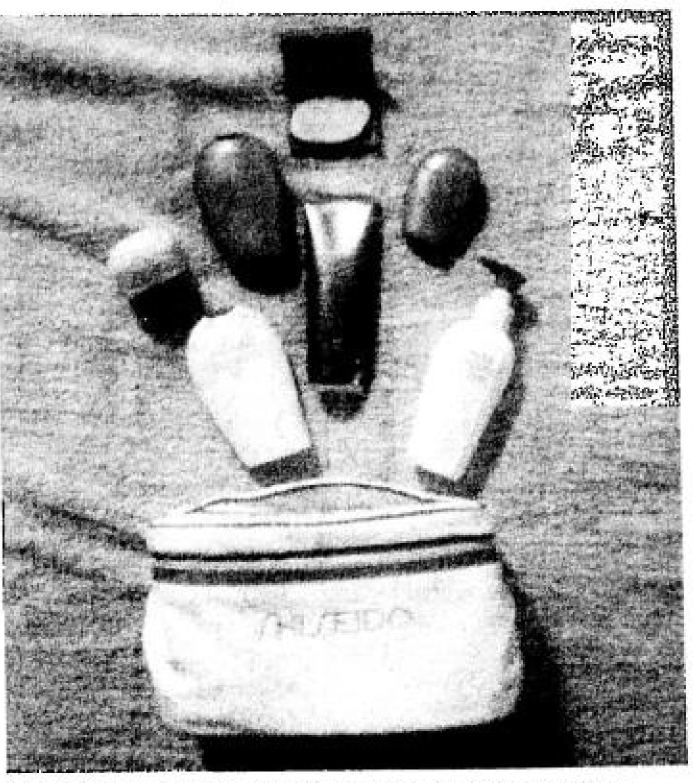
Also, J&J Baby Softwash calming with matching lavender and chamomile lotion, which also served as an insect repellant in the evening; Nivea whitening deodorant stick, Nenuco and Off mosquito repellant; and Godiva Safe Sea sunblock on top of the Shiseido sunblock, to avoid jellyfish stings.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

> In the evening, the only way to wash out all those water-resistant emulsions was to apply Shiseido's ultimate cleansing oil all over the skin



BIG Lagoon, Miniloc Island



SHISEIDO invited beauty writers and editors to El Nido to experience its Suncare line firsthand.

LadiesWear
in line with your style
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simple clean casual
We've got it all for you
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DE ORO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS • BATANGAS • DELGAD

Classic floral scents

CRABTREE & Evelyn pays homage to the art of perfumery with its fine fragrance collection, English Floral.

Luxurious, ultra feminine and refined, English Floral was inspired by the seasonal scent of classic English flowers: wisteria, lily of the valley, freesia and evelyn rose. The Lily of the Valley Eau de Parfum contains honey-like muguet complemented by a bouquet of spring flowers.

Crabtree & Evelyn has outlets at 2/L Shangri-La Plaza Mall; Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati; upper ground, Megamall A; and 2/L Padre Faura wing Robinsons Place Manila.

CRABTREE & EVELYN
LILY OF THE VALLEY
EAU DE TOILETTE
100 mL

LILY of the Valley Eau de Toilette from Crabtree & Evelyn

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PER DTI NCR PERMIT NO. 1573 SERIES OF 2005

French skin care line boosts mom's skin

GUINOT Institut Paris, the French beauty care group, introduces an anti-aging line for moms of all ages

Time Release Youth Boost is a highly specialized anti-aging line that functions dually to refine and revitalize skin. This 14-day intensive treatment system works around the clock to refine skin during the day and repair and regenerate it at night.

Its unique Skin Matrix Complex contains regenerating plant extracts that help restructure the skin. These come in powder and liquid form and are blended before use.

Aside from having a firming action that strengthens the elastin fibers, Skin Matrix Complex also energizes the skin so it has a nice, healthy glow.

Also available is the Time Release Youth Boost for the Eyes, which treats the eyelids and eye contour, which are especially prone to wrinkles, puffiness and dark circles due to fatigue.

Guinot is the only skincare treatment center where the equipment and products are especially calibrated to work together.

It is the home of the impressive Hydradermie treatment, a system that employs electrotherapy to deep-cleanse the skin to give the complexion a healthy glow.

Guinot also has the Liftosome treatment that renews skin's firmness and elasticity while providing deep hydrating benefits. Liftosome is recommended for women 35 years old and above. It diminishes fine lines and treat skin dehydration and loss of elasticity.

The Time Release Youth Boost line is exclusively available in Guinot treatment centers at G/F 6750 Retail Arcade, Makati (tel. 8193952) and at 5F Wellness Zone EDSA Shangri-La Mall (tel. 6354538 and 635-0357).

GUINOT'S Time-release Youth Boost line is for anyone who wants to arrest, prevent and reverse all signs of aging at any age.

SUNSCREEN AND SKIN PROTECTOR IN ONE

Faircrea Skincare Protector UV Perfect SPF 50+ PA+++by Kanebo, Japan protects facial and body skin from damage caused by UV rays such as dryness, roughness and irritation. It also contains TP diol, a cooling ingredient and refreshing herbal scents such as lavander, which is said to keep away mosquitoes and black flies. Its active natural ingredients are mineral yeast, Saint John's wort extracts and moisturizing ingredient derived from corn. The whitening sunscreen and skin protector in one provides long-lasting protection producing a silky transparent finish without leaving any white residue. Available at Rustan's and other leading department stores.

PROTECTOR
UV PERFECT
SPF50+ PA+++

THIS MAY 21, TAKE A WALK ON THE CHILD'S SIDE

Everyone complains about the sad state of education in the Philippines – the lack of schoolbooks, the quality of teaching, the worn-down classrooms that leak when it rains, the lack of running water in school bathrooms.

But is there something we can do about it? Are you feeling the frustration that comes from just hearing complaints, without any action?

Now, in just one afternoon, you can do something about it. Bring your family and friends and show them what it means to walk the walk, rather than just being content to talk the talk. Here's a really simple but strong statement that you can make for the future of Filipino children.

STEP 1: To register as a walker, fill out the form and fax to **849-6966**. You can also call 849-6900 for details about registration. You can choose to walk 2.5 kilometers (an easy 30-minute walk), 5km (around an hour's walk), and 7.5 kilometers (around an hour and a half).

STEP 2: Get as many people as you can to understand why you decided to walk, and get them to donate to UNICEF because of your walk. They can choose to donate P250, P500, or P750 just for you to walk. They can choose to donate any amount, regardless of the distance you walk.

For instance, if you chose to walk 2.5km, you can get 4 individuals to donate P250 each and you then get to raise P1,000 to help children. Or you can ask these individuals to donate P500 each, even though you are just choosing to walk 2.5km, and you get to raise P2,000. You can even get different individuals to donate different amounts for your walk. They can pay by cash, check, or credit card.

STEP 3: Bring friends and family to **Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio on May 21, 2005, 4:00pm**, and show them what it means to act on behalf of Filipino children. You can choose to have them walk with you, or just let them wait and watch as you take a leisurely stroll – and take a step in the right direction for Filipino children.

unicef

WALKATHON PDI 05 08 05

Please cut here.

WALKATHON REGISTRATION FORM **Please fax to 849-6966. For inquiries, please call 849-6900.**

IMPORTANT: If you have more than 4 individuals who would like to donate to UNICEF due to your participation in this event, kindly photocopy this form and submit along with the original.

WALKER'S INFORMATION
Name: ______ Last ______ First ______ Middle
Company: ______
Address: ______ No. ______ Street ______ Town/Municipality
______ City/Province ______ Zip Code

Daytime tel. no.: ______
Cell phone no.: ______
E-mail address: ______
Birthday: ___/___/___ mm dd yy Signature: ______

By signing on this form, I certify that I am fit to participate in this event, and I will not hold UNICEF and the companies/individuals behind this event liable for any sickness or injury that may arise out of my participation in this event. I likewise certify that the individuals whose signatures below are donating the amounts indicated to UNICEF.

To raise money to build schools for Filipino children, I will walk:
☐ 2.5km (around 30 minutes leisurely walk)
☐ 5.0km (around 1 hour leisurely walk)
☐ 7.5km (around 1 1/2 hours leisurely walk)

WALKATHON
Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio
May 21, 2005
4pm

Because I have volunteered to walk, the following individuals will donate the amounts indicated below to UNICEF (Please check amounts & payment method. For credit card donations, the credit card holder must sign on this sheet so as to authorize the payment of the donated amount to UNICEF. All donors will be issued receipts from UNICEF. Please send check and cash donations before May 21, 2005. For check pick-up, please call 849-6900.)

Name/Telephone No.	Amount Donated	Payment	This portion for credit card payments. Please charge my:
Myself	☐ P250 ☐ P500 ☐ P750	☐ Credit card ☐ Check (Please make checks payable to UNICEF) ☐ Cash	☐ Visa ☐ Diners Club ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express Card number: ______ Expiry date: ______ Signature: ______
1)	☐ P250 ☐ P500 ☐ P750	☐ Credit card ☐ Check (Please make checks payable to UNICEF) ☐ Cash	☐ Visa ☐ Diners Club ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express Card number: ______ Expiry date: ______ Signature: ______
2)	☐ P250 ☐ P500 ☐ P750	☐ Credit card ☐ Check (Please make checks payable to UNICEF) ☐ Cash	☐ Visa ☐ Diners Club ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express Card number: ______ Expiry date: ______ Signature: ______
3)	☐ P250 ☐ P500 ☐ P750	☐ Credit card ☐ Check (Please make checks payable to UNICEF) ☐ Cash	☐ Visa ☐ Diners Club ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express Card number: ______ Expiry date: ______ Signature: ______
4)	☐ P250 ☐ P500 ☐ P750	☐ Credit card ☐ Check (Please make checks payable to UNICEF) ☐ Cash	☐ Visa ☐ Diners Club ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express Card number: ______ Expiry date: ______ Signature: ______

Reveal radiant skin

BOTH men and women are not spared from skin discoloration, which results from the natural process of aging, prolonged sun exposure and pollutants in the environment.

Skin discoloration comes in many unsightly forms: dark spots, freckles and uneven skin tone.

NUSKIN Tri-Phasic White, a comprehensive skin-brightening system

To this problem, Nu Skin offers the solution: Tri-Phasic White, a comprehensive skin-brightening system to achieve beautiful, luminous and radiant skin.

Composed of five products, namely Tri-Phasic White Cleanser, Tri-Phasic White Toner, Tri-Phasic White Essence, Tri-Phasic White Day Milk and Tri-Phasic White Night Cream, these effectively work together to minimize the activation, synthesis and expression phases of melanin—a pigment that causes discoloration on the skin's surface.

Nu Skin's Tri-Phasic White Day Lotion blocks the activation of the discoloration process with its two active ingredients: hexapeptide-2, which works to inhibit the activation and formation of complexion—dimming blemishes, and UVA and UVB (SPF 15) sunscreens to protect the skin from harmful ultraviolet rays.

To address the synthesis process, Tri-Phasic White Essence, with active ingredient Brightex, works to illuminate the complexion by converting existing discoloration to a lighter form, and by promoting antioxidant activity to calm free radicals.

The Tri-Phasic White Cleanser is formulated to inhibit the expression of discoloration on the skin's surface. Enriched with natural compound Creatinine, the product is a pearlescent, moisturizing mousse that cleanses and brightens the skin for a fresh, luminous look.

Two other specialized products complete the Tri-Phasic White System: the Tri-Phasic Night Cream and Tri-Phasic White Toner. Tri-Phasic Night Cream has Diacetyl Boldine, a powerful formula that reduces stress receptors and helps block the activation phase of discoloration even while you sleep.

Meanwhile, Tri-Phasic White Toner has dual benefits, addressing both the activation and expression processes. Its key ingredients are Carnosine, an antioxidant that calms the skin, fighting off free radical-induced irritation receptors that trigger the activation process, and Fairtex, a non-acid cell-renewal complex that removes accumulated discoloration and diminishes unwanted color expression on the skin's surface.

The Tri-Phasic White System is available in the Philippines through Nu Skin Enterprises, Inc.'s local affiliate, Nu Skin Philippines, Inc. Call 6890333 or visit www.nuskin.com.ph

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Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc. 2F Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
Tels.: 812-6047 / 812-6076 to 79 / 892-6449 • Fax: 810-9797 • info@canon.com.ph • www.canon.com.ph

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AEI

Asian Care for Asian Eyes

Nothing beats an
eye checkup every year

Even children have eye problems

But an eye checkup can diagnose and prevent them

Children can have eye and vision problems as well. These can affect their learning and socialization in school. These pediatric eye disorders can be treated and managed when diagnosed early on. A comprehensive eye examination can determine if any eye problems may be holding back your child's development.

Make it a point to see your eye doctor annually and bring your family in for a checkup as well. A little prevention goes a long way in keeping your child's future bright and clear.

*AEI is part of the U.S. Business Service Provider Network of the U.S. Commercial Service, U.S. Embassy, Manila. Visit www.buyusa.gov/philippines. AEI is accredited by Prestige International and PhilHealth.

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Email: eyehelp@asianeyeinstitute.com * Website: www.asianeyeinstitute.com
Clinic hours: Monday to Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Triple weekend Anniversary Sale
April 29, 30, May 1
May 6, 7, 8
May 13, 14, 15

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How to achieve full and straight hair

ANDY Uffels

FASHIONISTAS have decreed the full and straight look as the new hairstyle for the season.

"Hair should represent the real character of the person. It should be easy to take care of, and should be touchable and shiny," says Andy Uffels, Pantene Pro-V's global artistic director.

Uffels comes highly recommended and revered in his field. Voted Dutch Hairdresser of the Year 2000-2001, Press Stylist of the Year 2000 and New York's World Master Award in 1996, Uffels and his works have been featured in Elle, Marie Claire, Vogue and Cosmopolitan magazines.

After years of training with Toni & Guy, Vidal Sassoon, Trevor Sorbie London and Pivot Point Training Chicago, Uffels worked for top fashion designers such as John Galliano and Vicktor & Rolf in their fashion shows in Paris.

Here are some tips from Uffels on how women can achieve this new look:

- Wash and condition hair with Pantene Smooth and Silky shampoo and conditioner with Amino Pro-V Complex. Blow-dry hair straight with a round or flat brush, or dry and then straighten with a straightening iron. Once completely straight, curl large sections of the hair with a curling iron.
- To achieve smooth, straight hair with volume at the root, lift each section of hair away from the scalp at a 90-degree angle while blow-drying hair. Direct the airflow down the hair shaft. Let each section cool, especially at the root, before releasing it to 'set' the lift.
- If your hair is dry, the look of rich, glossy hair is impossible to achieve. Treat dry hair to daily washing and conditioning with Pantene Smooth and Silky shampoo and conditioner with Amino Pro-V Complex to nourish it back to health, and the rich glossy look will come naturally.
- It is important that you have the right tools to achieve the 'full and straight' look for this season. You'll need two brushes—a round brush and either a paddle brush or some type of vent smoothing brush. Use a hair dryer that is at least 1,500 watts, with at least two speed settings and a cool switch for finishing. Combs and clips are great for separating your hair while blow-drying it.

BRENT Javier

10 makeover packages for free

WATSONS launches its latest campaign called "Beauty & Brent" (B&B), where 10 makeover packages worth P100,000 each and worth over a million pesos will be given away.

The promo is open to all Watsons customers and Addict Mobile Prepaid subscribers until June 1.

A minimum purchase worth P150 at any Watsons outlet nationwide entitles a customer to qualify for the raffle. Register by simply typing Watsons REG Amount Purchased/Tape Receipt No./Full Name/ Address/Gender/Age and texting it to 386.

On the week of June 6, 10 winners will be drawn and granted individual hair, skin and fashion makeovers. To complete the one-of-a-kind summer experience, Brent Javier, the country's most sought-after model, will choose one out of the 10 makeover recipients to go out with him on an all-expenses-paid date.

Unlike ordinary raffle promos, Watsons' B&B does not merely showcase material prizes.

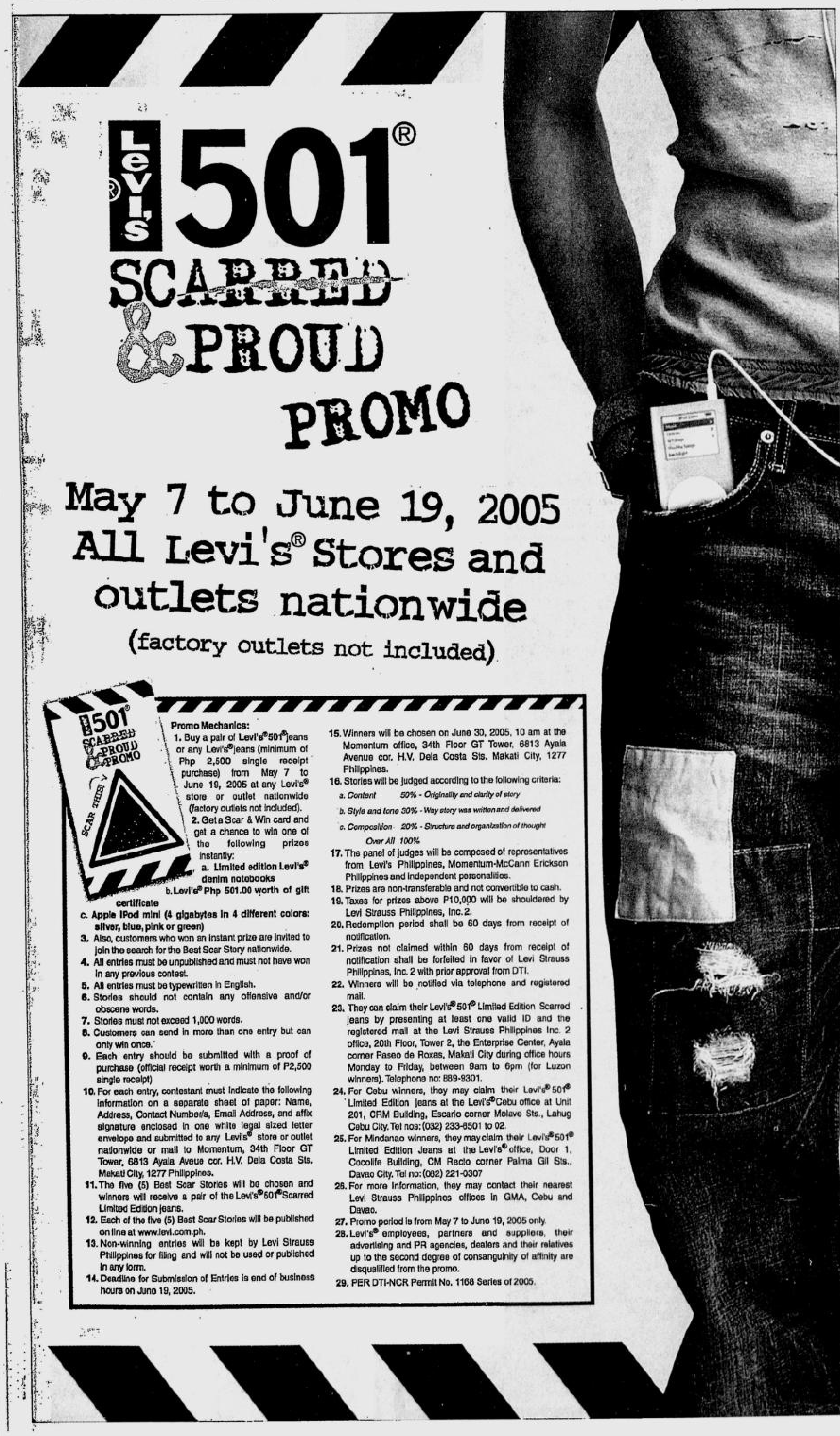
"Our prizes form a total experience that's meant to enhance the personal well-being of our customers," says Bobby Saneo, Watsons' activation marketing manager.

Each makeover package includes make-up classes, professional skin and hair analyses, fashion styling lessons, cell phones with AMP SIM pack kits, details trading apparel, as well as Shiseido, Pantene and Watsons Own Label products.

Watsons, Your Personal Store is the largest health and beauty retailer in Asia, currently operating over 980 stores in 9 markets. For more details about the B&B promo, text Watsons and send to 386.

Before

After



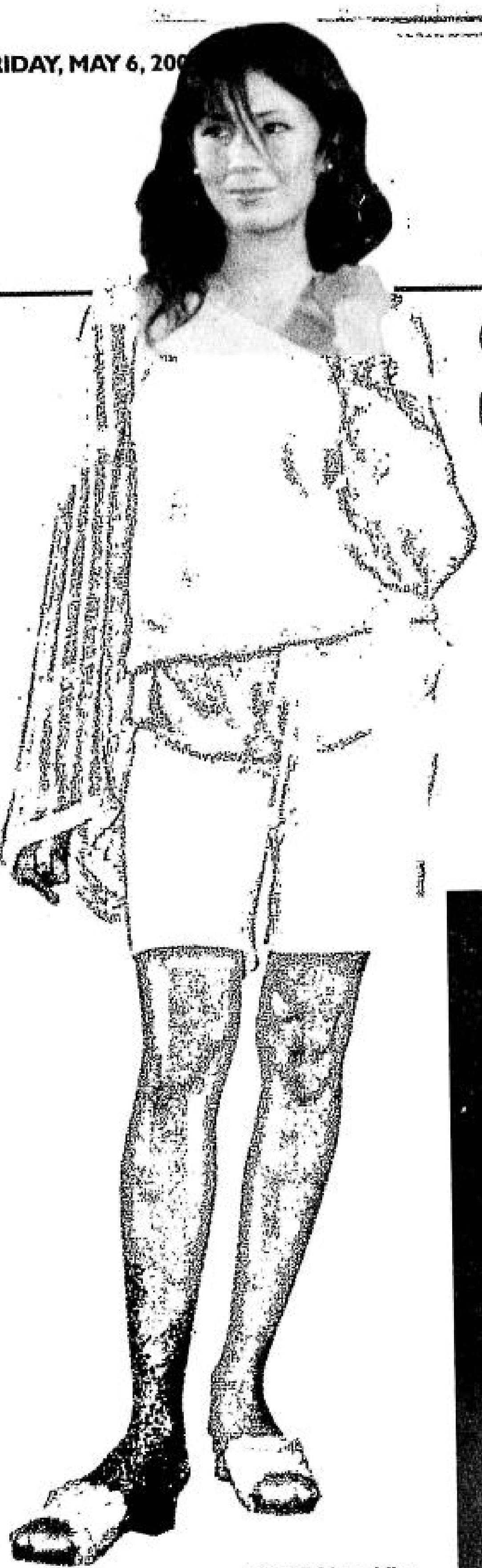
Levi's 501®
~~SCARRED~~
& PROUD
PROMO

May 7 to June 19, 2005
All Levi's® Stores and outlets nationwide
(factory outlets not included)

Promo Mechanics:

1. Buy a pair of Levi's® 501® jeans or any Levi's® jeans (minimum of Php 2,500 single receipt purchase) from May 7 to June 19, 2005 at any Levi's® store or outlet nationwide (factory outlets not included).
2. Get a Scar & Win card and get a chance to win one of the following prizes instantly:
   a. Limited edition Levi's® denim notebooks
   b. Levi's® Php 501.00 worth of gift certificate
   c. Apple iPod mini (4 gigabytes in 4 different colors: silver, blue, pink or green)
3. Also, customers who won an instant prize are invited to join the search for the Best Scar Story nationwide.
4. All entries must be unpublished and must not have won in any previous contest.
5. All entries must be typewritten in English.
6. Stories should not contain any offensive and/or obscene words.
7. Stories must not exceed 1,000 words.
8. Customers can send in more than one entry but can only win once.
9. Each entry should be submitted with a proof of purchase (official receipt worth a minimum of P2,500 single receipt)
10. For each entry, contestant must indicate the following information on a separate sheet of paper: Name, Address, Contact Number/s, Email Address, and affix signature enclosed in one white legal sized letter envelope and submitted to any Levi's® store or outlet nationwide or mail to Momentum, 34th Floor GT Tower, 6813 Ayala Aveue cor. H.V. Dela Costa Sts. Makati City, 1277 Philippines.
11. The five (5) Best Scar Stories will be chosen and winners will receive a pair of the Levi's® 501® Scarred Limited Edition jeans.
12. Each of the five (5) Best Scar Stories will be published on line at www.levi.com.ph.
13. Non-winning entries will be kept by Levi Strauss Philippines for filing and will not be used or published in any form.
14. Deadline for Submission of Entries is end of business hours on June 19, 2005.
15. Winners will be chosen on June 30, 2005, 10 am at the Momentum office, 34th Floor GT Tower, 6813 Ayala Avenue cor. H.V. Dela Costa Sts. Makati City, 1277 Philippines.
16. Stories will be judged according to the following criteria:
   a. Content 50% - Originality and clarity of story
   b. Style and tone 30% - Way story was written and delivered
   c. Composition 20% - Structure and organization of thought
   Over All 100%
17. The panel of judges will be composed of representatives from Levi's Philippines, Momentum-McCann Erickson Philippines and independent personalities.
18. Prizes are non-transferable and not convertible to cash.
19. Taxes for prizes above P10,000 will be shouldered by Levi Strauss Philippines, Inc. 2.
20. Redemption period shall be 60 days from receipt of notification.
21. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Levi Strauss Philippines, Inc. 2 with prior approval from DTI.
22. Winners will be notified via telephone and registered mail.
23. They can claim their Levi's® 501® Limited Edition Scarred jeans by presenting at least one valid ID and the registered mail at the Levi Strauss Philippines Inc. 2 office, 20th Floor, Tower 2, the Enterprise Center, Ayala corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City during office hours Monday to Friday, between 9am to 6pm (for Luzon winners). Telephone no: 889-9301.
24. For Cebu winners, they may claim their Levi's® 501® Limited Edition jeans at the Levi's® Cebu office at Unit 201, CRM Building, Escario corner Molave Sts., Lahug Cebu City. Tel nos: (032) 233-6501 to 02.
25. For Mindanao winners, they may claim their Levi's® 501® Limited Edition Jeans at the Levi's® office, Door 1, Cocolife Building, CM Recto corner Palma Gil Sts., Davao City. Tel no: (082) 221-0307
26. For more information, they may contact their nearest Levi Strauss Philippines offices in GMA, Cebu and Davao.
27. Promo period is from May 7 to June 19, 2005 only.
28. Levi's® employees, partners and suppliers, their advertising and PR agencies, dealers and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity of affinity are disqualified from the promo.
29. PER DTI-NCR Permit No. 1168 Series of 2005.

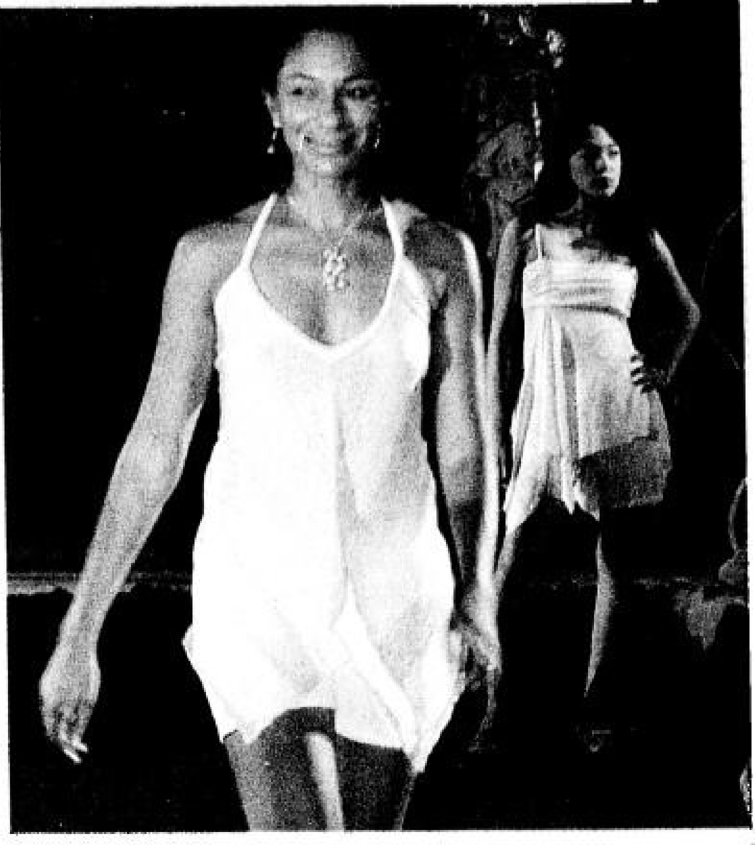
LIFESTYLE



UNEVEN neckline and floaty material

Summery knits

Lulu Tan-Gan was the featured fashion designer at a recent charity dinner hosted by Manila's expatriate community



HALTER top and shorts

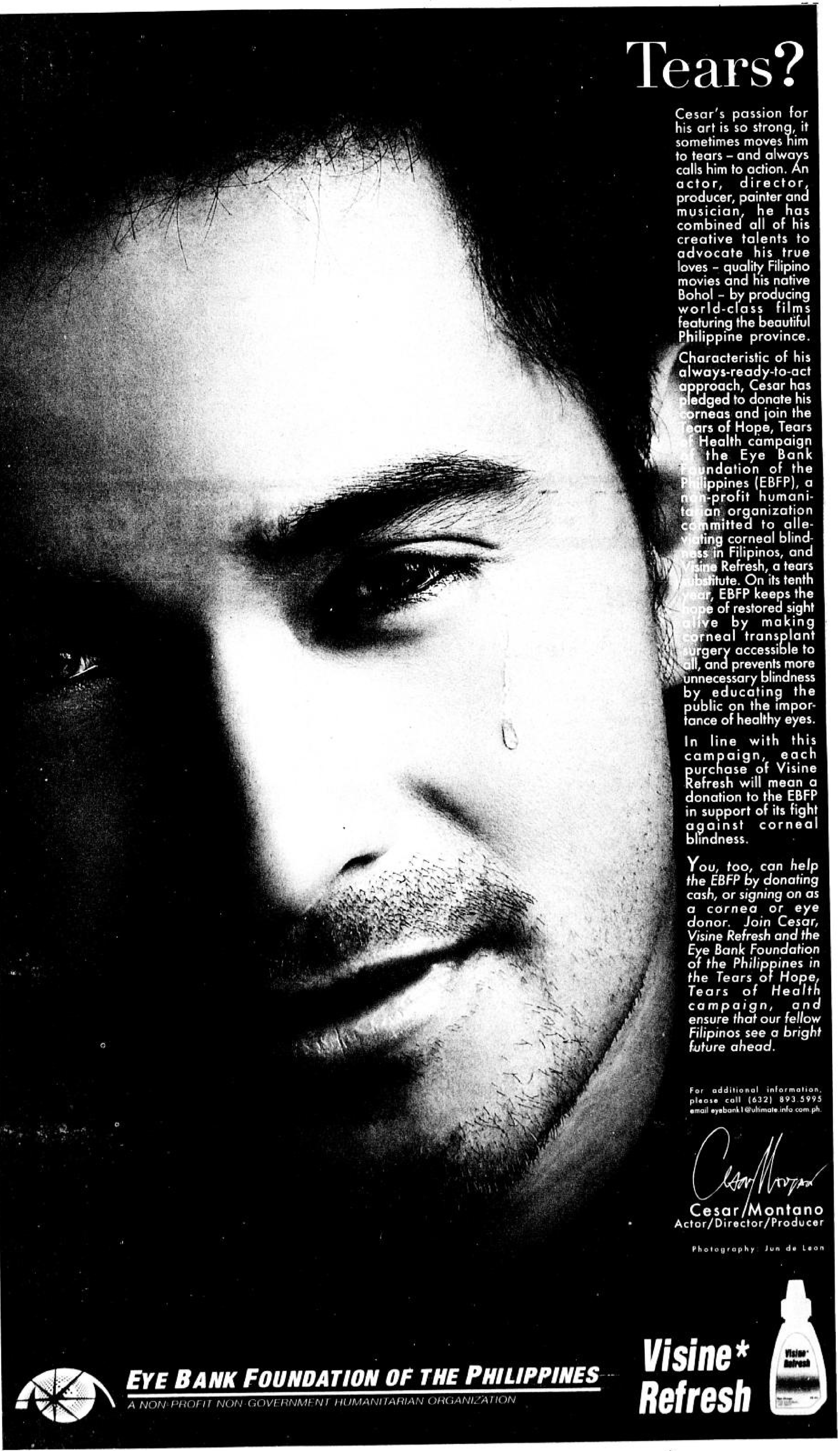
Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Joseph Agcaoili

KNIT queen Lulu Tan-Gan basked in the glow of summer by showcasing close to a dozen knitted and airy separates in such summery shades as white, butter yellow and lime green. For the first time in recent memory, the fashion designer known for her Western sensibilities as far as clothes go also presented a *terno*.

Tan-Gan was the featured designer during a recent charity dinner hosted by Manila's expatriate community at Greenbelt's Zen Garden. Billed as "Streets Arts," the event sought to raise money to fund art therapy programs

SUMMERY/ F2

TERNO made of *piña* and knitted fabric



Tears?

Cesar's passion for his art is so strong, it sometimes moves him to tears – and always calls him to action. An actor, director, producer, painter and musician, he has combined all of his creative talents to advocate his true loves – quality Filipino movies and his native Bohol – by producing world-class films featuring the beautiful Philippine province.

Characteristic of his always-ready-to-act approach, Cesar has pledged to donate his corneas and join the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP), a non-profit humanitarian organization committed to alleviating corneal blindness in Filipinos, and Visine Refresh, a tears substitute. On its tenth year, EBFP keeps the hope of restored sight alive by making corneal transplant surgery accessible to all, and prevents more unnecessary blindness by educating the public on the importance of healthy eyes.

In line with this campaign, each purchase of Visine Refresh will mean a donation to the EBFP in support of its fight against corneal blindness.

You, too, can help the EBFP by donating cash, or signing on as a cornea or eye donor. Join Cesar, Visine Refresh and the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines in the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign, and ensure that our fellow Filipinos see a bright future ahead.

For additional information, please call (632) 893.5995 email eyebank1@ultimate.info.com.ph.

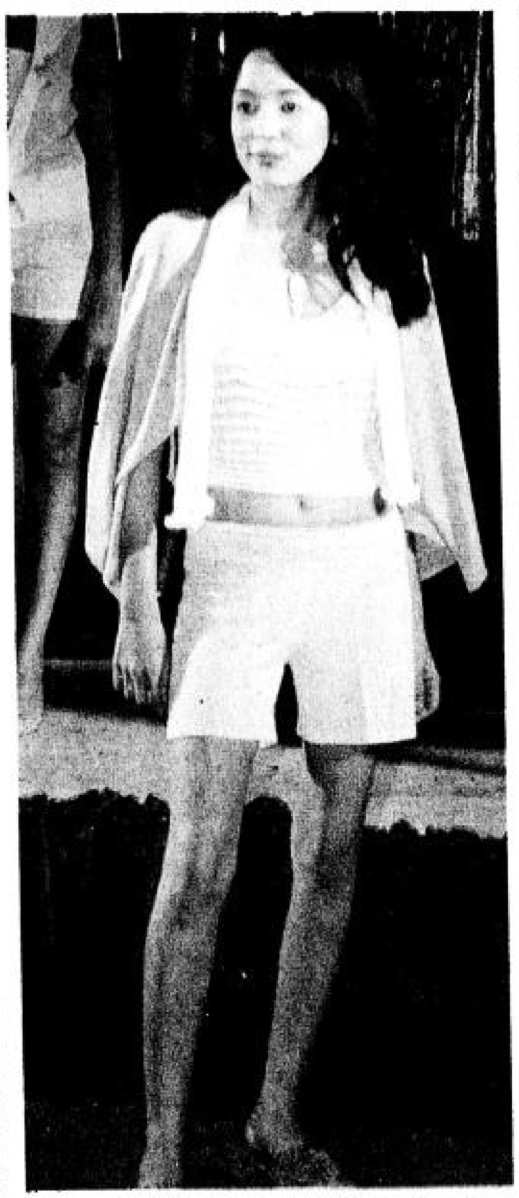
Cesar Montano
Actor/Director/Producer

Photography: Jun de Leon

EYE BANK FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
A NON-PROFIT NON-GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION

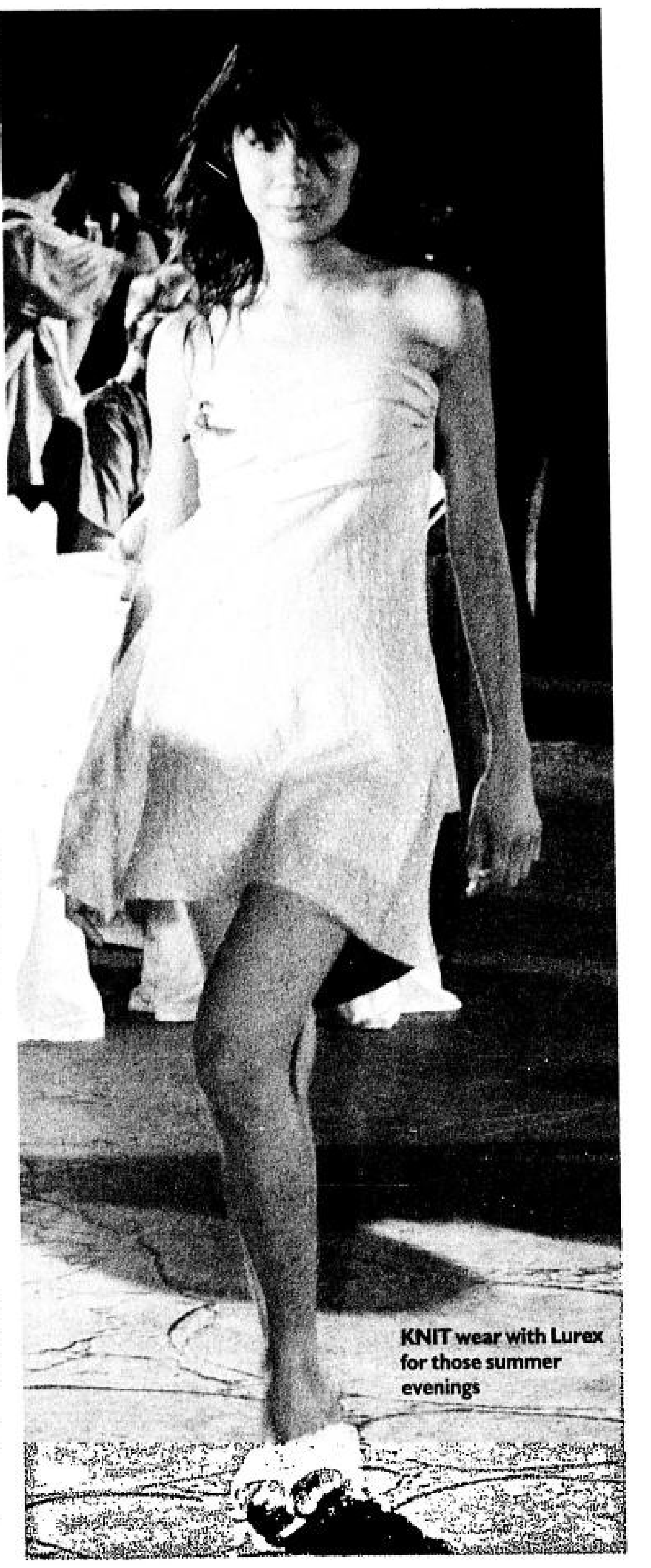
Visine* Refresh

V-NECKED dress with kimono sleeves



THREE-PIECE ensemble made of various types of knits

HANDKERCHIEF skirt adds volume.



KNIT wear with Lurex for those summer evenings

Summery knits

From page F1

to help street children and children in jail.

The designer's pieces, which she dubbed as her "cruise" collection, consisted mostly of asymmetric and V-necked dresses and blouses with kimono sleeves, some worn over bandeaus and shorts. Apart from the loose silhouettes, held together by such devices as drawstrings and spaghetti straps, a number of dresses were jazzed up with capelets, cowl necks, ruched bust lines, built-in stoles and handkerchief hemlines.

Tan-Gan resorted to layering as well as the use of various knits made from cotton viscose blend to keep her pieces interesting. She also added a touch of evening drama to several strapless dresses by incorporating shiny Lurex to the fabric.

For her finale, the designer presented a stylized, empire-cut *terno* with detachable butterfly sleeves that combined *piña* with knits. Just like her less formal pieces, the *terno's* skirt was made from several layers of knitted, asymmetric materials to achieve a foulard, hanky-drop effect.

After this, it was the children's turn to take center stage, as each group either modeled *ukay-ukay* fashion or did their respective takes on folk dances from Indonesia, India and the Philippines.

Facilitating organizations are Childhope Asia Philippines, Albert Schweitzer Association Phils. Inc. and KnK Philippines.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

IN THE INTEREST OF TRUTH

The Real MAGIC© CREAM
Amira MAGIC© SKIN WHITENING CREAM

The stylized "MAGIC" in the phrase "Amira MAGIC Skin Whitening Cream" and/or "Amira MAGIC Cream" was created by Amira Pharmaceutical and Medical Trading ("Amira") and first used on its popular line of cosmetic products. As creator of the stylized " MAGIC " in the phrase "Amira Skin Whitening Cream" and or "Amira MAGIC Cream", Amira is entitled to its exclusive use and is legally protected against copyright infringement from the moment of its creation. Amira will prosecute any person, entity or establishment which shall use or appropriate for themselves the stylized "MAGIC" in the phrase "Amira MAGIC Skin Whitening Cream" and/or "Amira MAGIC Cream", or any colorable imitation thereof, without Amira's consent or against its will.

Any claim by any person, establishment or entity that it is sole and exclusive owner of the brand name MAGIC CREAM is FALSE. To date, the Intellectual Property Office has still to decide on whether or not MAGIC CREAM, as a trademark, is registrable and, if so, who, among a number of applicants, is entitled thereto.

The "Amira MAGIC Skin Whitening CREAM" product is duly registered, not merely listed, with the Bureau of Food and Drugs under Certificate of Product Registration No. 20311 dated July 19, 2004.

For any inquiry, please contact Amira Pharmaceutical and Medical Trading at No. 17-21 Apple Street, Hensonville Homes, Malabañas, Angeles City, with phone no. 0927-2549693

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33 Dapitan Bay Drive, South Bay
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MONOGRAM Cerises
Arc en Ciel umbrella

MONOGRAM Cerises Sandals

MONOGRAM
Cerises Speedy bag

Luxurious whimsy

FOR MOTHER'S Day, Louis Vuitton has selected several products from the Monogram Cerises collection, created in collaboration with Japanese artist Takashi Murakami for Spring/Summer 2005.

The items feature a vividly red, cheerful and appetizing cherry with a smiling face, giving a touch of whimsy to the Monogram canvas.

The Parapluie Arc en Ciel, meanwhile, has refined wooden finishing and leather handles for that light but sophisticated look.

This season, the iconic Speedy bag is also covered by the Monogram Cerises canvas and lined with natural leather, while the Porte monaie rond, or change purse, is the accessory of the season.

For a fun fashion statement, the Foulard silk twill scarf, printed with Monogram Cerise, is the perfect choice.

Lastly, the Louis Vuitton sandal features the refinement of the lizard mixed with the fantasy of the Monogram Cerises. Sexy and girly, this sandal can take mom from daytime lunches with friends to evening dates with dad.

In the Philippines, Louis Vuitton is located at the ground floor of Greenbelt 4, Ayala Center, Makati City. Call 7560637 or visit www.louisvuitton.com.

**FRUITS and Passion Women's Line
Human Collection**

Nature-scented products for body and home

CANADIAN lifestyle company Fruits & Passion offers a range of products for the body and the home. Fruits and Passion has over 100 boutiques worldwide, and its award-winning and innovative items are found in over 2,000 independent stores.

Human, a new line of body care products, includes fragrant, fusion, moisturizing and cleansing formulations.

The ambrosial notes of hibiscus and bamboo define Eau originelle for Women (Eau de toilette) while the scent of Eau originelle for Men (Eau de toilette) evokes budding fruits, blossoming flowers, and aromatic woods. Body Deodorant Mist with Fomes Officinalis Extract is designed as light eau de toilette. The line continues with Fusion Bath foaming bath and Massage Pebble, enriched with fieldberry wax, rosa mosqueta and sweet almond oils. Moisturizing Nectar with Bamboo and Ivy Extracts and Rosa Mosqueta Oil are effective for nourishing, protecting and restoring skin. Invigorating Essence with Bamboo and Ivy Extracts for Women and Invigorating Essence with Bamboo and Olive Tree Leaf Extracts for Men are body gels formulated with pure, delicately scented aloe vera. Body Souffle with Shea Butter and Rose Mosqueta Oil Ultra Moisturizing Body Cream leaves skin feeling smooth while After Shave Fluid soothes, tones, protects and moisturizes skin irritated by shaving.

Spring Gel with Bamboo and Ivy Extracts for Women and Spring Gel with Bamboo and Olive Leaf Extracts for Men are shower gels that revitalize and remineralize the skin. Plant Glycerin Cleansing Leaf, in variants for women or men, are soft and uniquely crafted cleansing soaps.

i'm lovin' it
chicken
happy meal

On Mother's Day, treat Mom to a place that brings her a lot of happy memories.

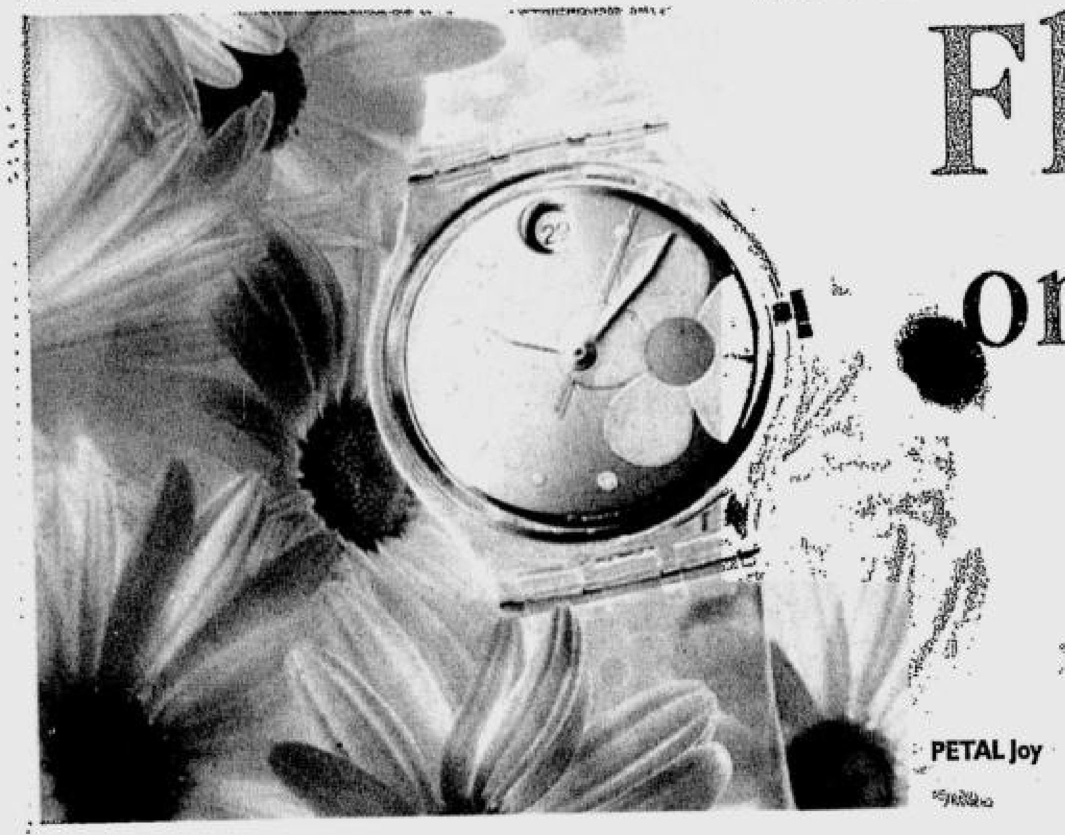
From May 6-15, just add P20 to every McDonald's Happy Meal food purchase and capture that special Mommy-moment at McDonald's with a souvenir photo taken by a Canon Digital Camera and printed instantly with a Canon Selphy Digital Photo Developer. Printout can be claimed in the Canon booth at participating McDonald's stores.

Canon Delighting You Always

This promo is available in the following McDonald's stores only:
McDonald's Panay Avenue • McDonald's Marikina Sports Complex • McDonald's Glorietta • McDonald's Greenbelt • McDonald's Forbes Town • McDonald's Market Market.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2350, Series of 2005.

Flower power on Mom's wrist



PETAL Joy

THIS Mother's Day, give your mom Swatch watches that feature garlands of flowers and gentle words.

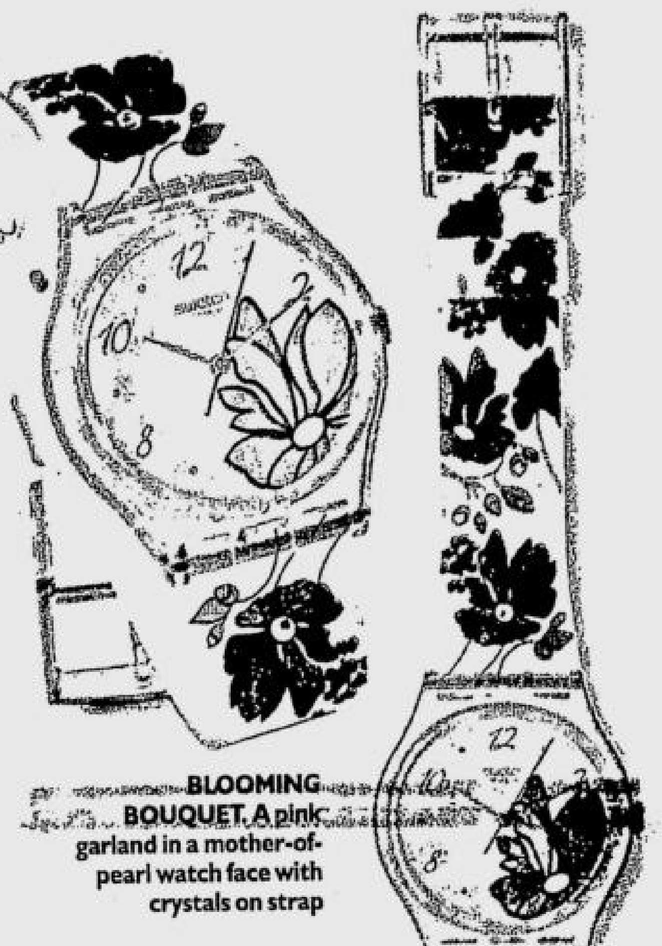
The 5-Petal Joy has a white flower to symbolize her virtues, plus five symbolic petals to thank her for the stability she gives you and gold to evoke her warmth and love.

This watch comes in a beauty case lined in silver satin and filled with secret little pockets.

The **Floral Flash** has colored tulips in a pristine white field, while the **Blooming Bouquet** is a floral fantasy in pink with a mother of pearl watch face and two crystals on the strap. **Happy Field** meanwhile, has white and blue daisies in a field of blue.

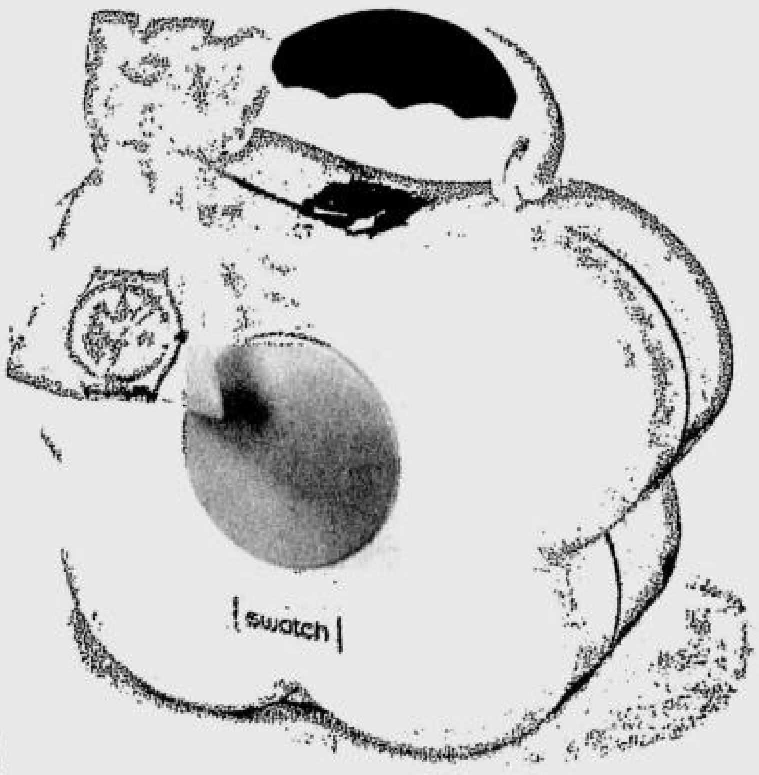
As an added treat for Mom and Dad, Swatch and Gift Gate are raffling off nine-weekend packages at the Mandarin Oriental Manila starting May and June. For every P500 purchase, customers can win one of nine two-night weekend stay in a deluxe room with buffet breakfast for two at Paseo Uno.

FLORAL FLASH. A bouquet of colorful tulips in a field of pristine white

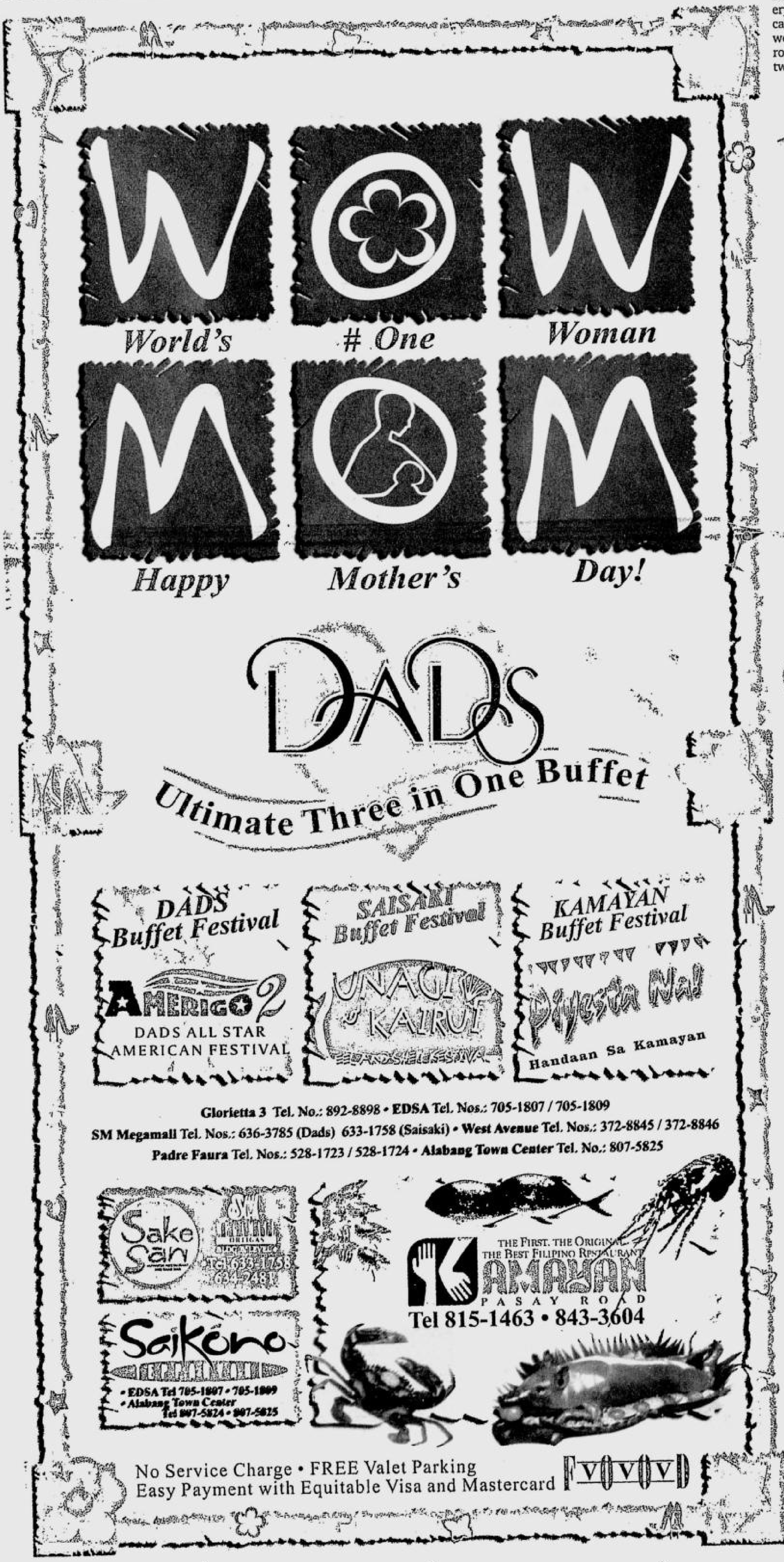


BLOOMING BOUQUET. A pink garland in a mother-of-pearl watch face with crystals on strap

HAPPY FIELD. Blue and white daisies in a field of blue and a hint of color on strap



PETAL JOY (SWATCH MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL 2005). This flower of flowers comes in a beauty case whose five pearly white petals surround a golden center. It comes with a small vanity case lined in silver satin and filled with secret little pockets.



WOW
World's # One Woman
MOM
Happy Mother's Day!

DADS
Ultimate Three in One Buffet

DADS Buffet Festival
AMERIGO 2
DADS ALL STAR AMERICAN FESTIVAL

SAISAKI Buffet Festival
UNAGI & KAIRUI

KAMAYAN Buffet Festival
Piyesta Na!
Handaan Sa Kamayan

Glorietta 3 Tel. No.: 892-8898 • EDSA Tel. Nos.: 705-1807 / 705-1809
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LIFESTYLE

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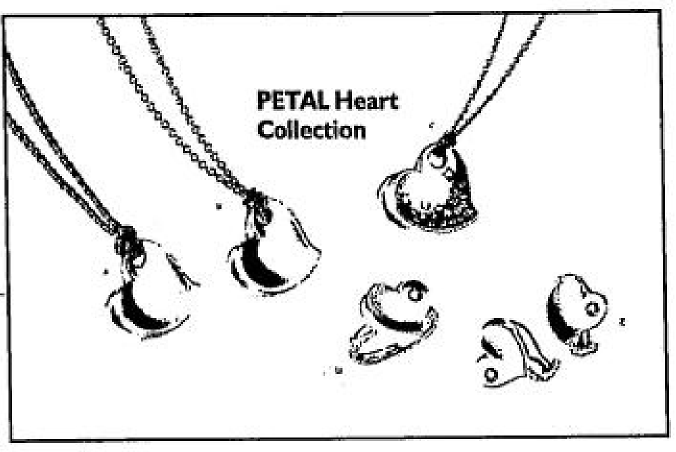
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

FOR Mother's Day, The Oasis of the Gateway Mall presents the Mikimoto Jewelry Fashion Show.

Celebrating pearls



PETAL Heart Collection

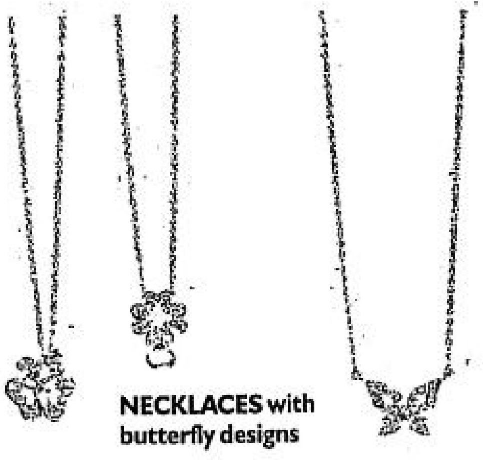
RUSTAN'S, home to the world's finest jewelry, and Mikimoto, renowned originator of cultured pearls, celebrate Mother's Day with the Mikimoto Jewelry Fashion Show at The Oasis of the Gateway Mall tomorrow, 4 p.m.

The event will showcase an extensive array of well-loved Mikimoto pieces: the Ocean Blue series of rings, earrings and necklaces set with blue sapphire and diamonds, as well as the single-strand necklaces in either white or black pearls.

The show will also unveil the Mikimoto Spring 2005 Collection, which includes the Mystifier set of necklace, ring and earring in avant-garde geometric designs and set in either 18-karat yellow or white gold.

Also up for exclusive viewing are the breathtaking necklace pendants in clover leaf, flower, and butterfly designs and the Petal Heart Collection of 18-karat yellow or white gold heart-shaped pendants, ring and earrings.

Visit your favorite Mikimoto store at Rustan's Makati, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Alabang and Gateway Mall.



NECKLACES with butterfly designs

THE CONSUMERS' CHOICE
Kancura Herbal Tea
100% Pure Slimming Power
21st Consumer's Choice Awards of the National Consumer Affairs Foundation
Distributed by:
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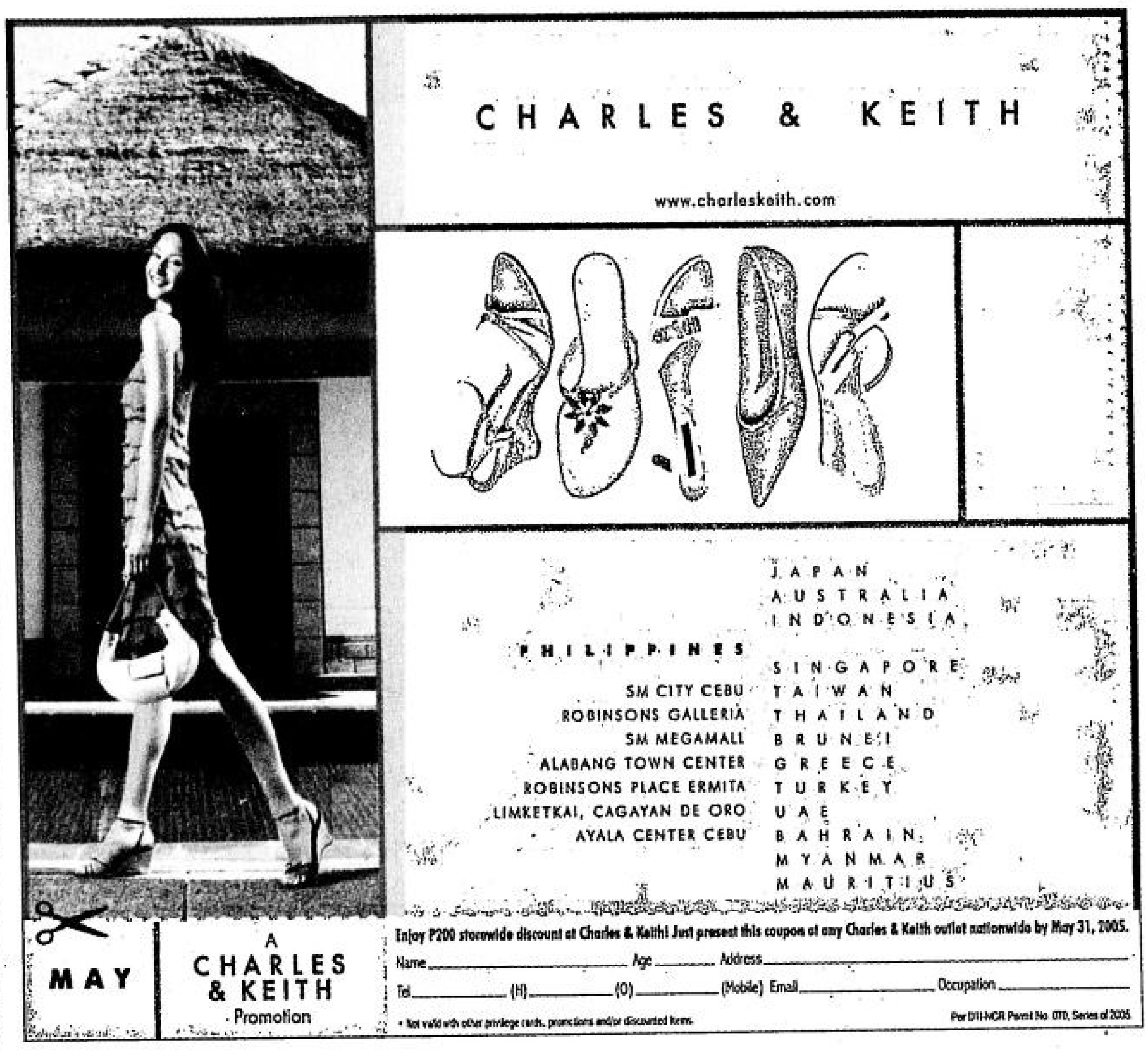

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INDONESIA
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BRUNEI
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MAY
A CHARLES & KEITH Promotion

Enjoy P200 storewide discount at Charles & Keith! Just present this coupon at any Charles & Keith outlet nationwide by May 31, 2005.
Name________ Age ____ Address________
Tel_____ (H)_____ (O) _____ (Mobile) Email________ Occupation ________
• Not valid with other privilege cards, promotions and/or discounted items.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 070, Series of 2005

Shakey's
GET INTO THE V-LEAGUE FEVER NOW!
V-LEAGUE BUNDLE

V-League Bundle 2
1 Large Thin Crust New Classic Italian Sausage
1 Pitcher NESTEA Iced Tea
1 Solo Pack Chicken 'n' Chips (3 pcs. Chicken)
& 1 Shakey's V-League Volleyball
for only P569 save P166

V-League Bundle 1
1 Large Thin Crust New Classic Italian Sausage
1 Pitcher NESTEA Iced Tea
1 Spaghetti Platter
1 Loaf Garlic Bread
& 1 Shakey's V-League Volleyball
for only P569 save P191

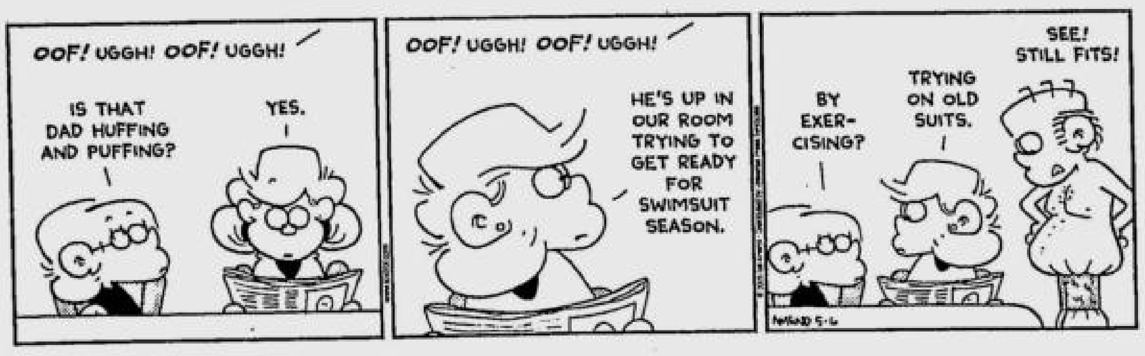
- HURRY! Promo runs from May 1 - 31, 2005 only.
- Available in all Shakey's restaurants.
- Valid for dine-in.
- Not valid with functions, bulk orders & other promo or discount.
- Prices are exclusive of service charge.

See posters & flyers for details Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2055 Series of 2005

Shakey's 1975 30th 2005 Great Food
Serving The World's Greatest Pizza for 30 years

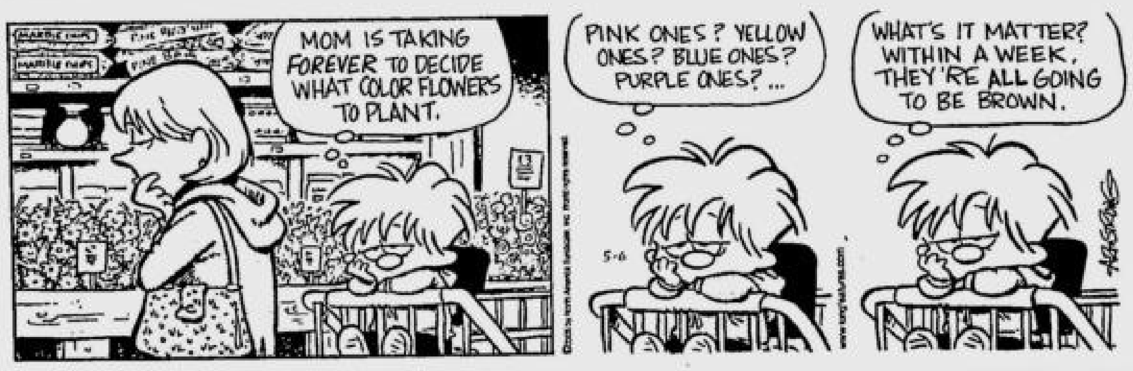
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


OOF! UGGH! OOF! UGGH!
IS THAT DAD HUFFING AND PUFFING?
YES.
OOF! UGGH! OOF! UGGH!
HE'S UP IN OUR ROOM TRYING TO GET READY FOR SWIMSUIT SEASON.
BY EXER-CISING?
TRYING ON OLD SUITS.
SEE! STILL FITS!
AMEND 5-6

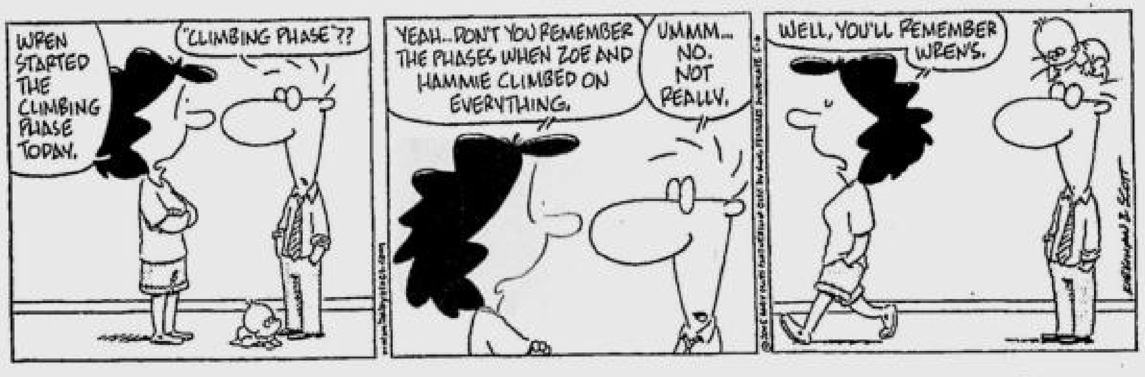
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


MOM IS TAKING FOREVER TO DECIDE WHAT COLOR FLOWERS TO PLANT.
PINK ONES? YELLOW ONES? BLUE ONES? PURPLE ONES? ...
WHAT'S IT MATTER? WITHIN A WEEK, THEY'RE ALL GOING TO BE BROWN.
5-6
ARMSTRONG

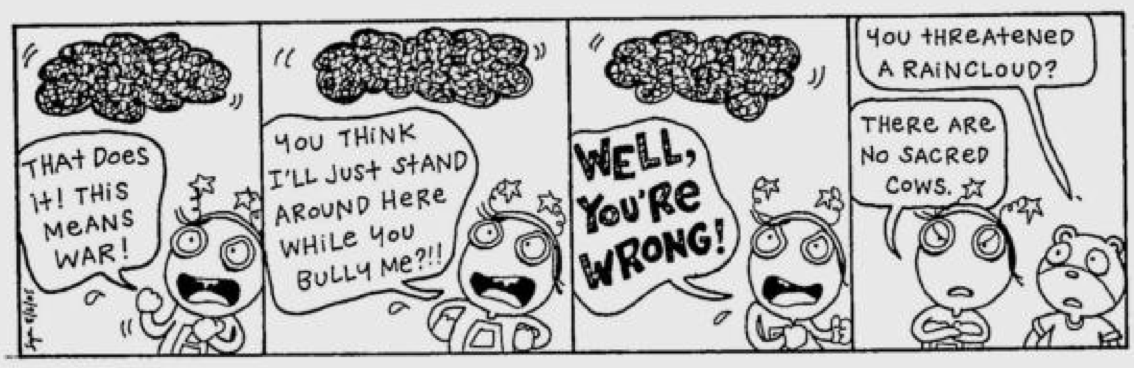
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WREN STARTED THE CLIMBING PHASE TODAY.
"CLIMBING PHASE"??
YEAH...DON'T YOU REMEMBER THE PHASES WHEN ZOE AND HAMMIE CLIMBED ON EVERYTHING.
UMMM... NO. NOT REALLY.
WELL, YOU'LL REMEMBER WREN'S.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THAT DOES IT! THIS MEANS WAR!
YOU THINK I'LL JUST STAND AROUND HERE WHILE YOU BULLY ME?!!
WELL, YOU'RE WRONG!
YOU THREATENED A RAINCLOUD?
THERE ARE NO SACRED COWS.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a deep, penetrating mind. You also have a wonderful imagination. You're sensitive, astute and very aware. Because of your own past suffering, you understand the pain of others. Many of you are teachers, counselors and excellent parents. In the year ahead, you will move on and let go of something. Birthdate of: George Clooney, actor; Rudolph Valentino, silent-film legend; Sigmund Freud, founder of psychoanalysis.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Don't be critical of others today. Resist the temptation to take a swipe at parents, bosses or your employer, even if it's presented to you on a silver platter. You'll regret it if you do!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Stop worrying. Worry is actually a habit. You collect things. You worry about your possessions. You worry about your future security. Lighten up!

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): A friend might be critical about how you spend your money. Possibly, a friend might not give you something you expect. Don't let this ruffle your feathers or ruin your day. It's peanuts.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Authority figures are easily critical of you today. Don't give them any ammunition. Walk carefully and play it very cool. Don't push the sides of the envelope.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Travel plans or hopes for publishing matters might be delayed right now. Someone could rain on your parade. This is just a temporary setback. Give it little thought.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're worried about bills, taxes, debt and shared possessions. We all worry about this! Possessions are nice, but they're also a burden to maintain and pay for. (Try to lighten and streamline your life.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Disagreements with partners and close friends are likely today. You don't like disharmony. Therefore, remember that it takes two to make a fight. Chill out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): The best way to handle today's energy is to work hard at your job. Tackle detailed work that requires concentration. Just keep plugging away.

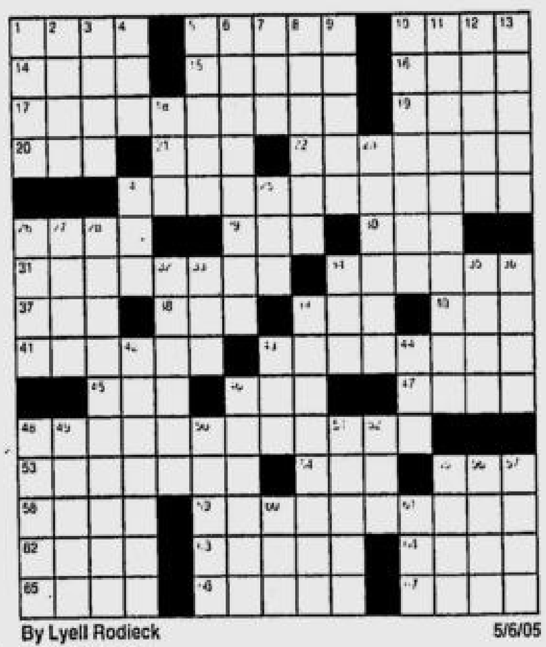
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Don't be strict or stern with children today. "Criticism does much, but encouragement does more," as Goethe wrote. (An excellent rule to remember.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good day to do repairs at home and fix whatever is broken. Don't try to fix relationships, however! Conversations won't flow easily.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Be patient with co-workers today. Everyone makes mistakes, including you. You were born 50 years ahead of your time (and the lead dog always has the clearest view).

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Sometimes we feel rich; sometimes we feel poor—and it has nothing to do with our bank account! Don't worry about money today. It's a passing celestial influence. Next week you'll feel completely different.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Lyell Rodieck
Springfield, VA

5/6/05

ACROSS
1 Not one
5 Fish landers
10 Cantor and Lupino
14 Cruising
15 Negative particle
16 Time of Nick?
17 "Mystery Alaska" co-star with 24A
19 Hindu goddess
20 Crackpot
21 Architect I.M.
22 Ornithologist
24 "A Beautiful Mind" co-star with 31A
26 Boxer Riddick
29 Born in Rouen
30 Bunco game
31 "Glengarry Glen Ross" co-star with 43A
34 Numero uno
37 Designer Kawakubo
38 Long, long time
39 ROK flier
40 Louis of boxing
41 "The Great __"
43 "The Godfather Trilogy" co-star with 48A
45 "Do Ya" grp.
46 Skater Midori
47 Webzine
48 "Sleepers" co-star with 59A
53 Near the kidneys
54 LXXIII x VII
55 Eww!
58 Eating regimen
59 Six degrees of separation from 17A
62 Winglike parts
63 Actress Slezak
64 Brave one
65 Comic Foxx
66 "Twist and Shout" brothers
67 Hades river

DOWN
1 TV journalist Paula
2 Jacob's twin
3 Cloth tear
4 Acorn producer
5 Fixed looks
6 "A Spy in the House of Love" writer
7 Evergreen tree
8 Character flaw
9 Sluggish one
10 Blotter blot
11 One of the Brady bunch?
12 Attorney chaser?
13 Paris river
18 TV's Kwik-E-Mart manager
23 Pop brand
24 Actor Stephen
25 Some MIT grads
26 Ice mass
27 Concert halls
28 Rye alternative
32 Given new life
33 Judge __ Bean
34 Keg feature
35 Mrs. Chaplin
36 Earth sci.
39 Yukon river
42 Rained icily
43 Got a bite
44 Corp. titan
46 Time wasters
48 Speed checker
49 "Swan Lake" name
50 Sulu of "Star Trek"
51 Pig Latin veto
52 Spare part?
55 "Rhyme Pays" rapper
56 Mrs. Aquino, casually
57 Kentucky fort
60 Hamlet rel.
61 Satisfied sighs

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

T	H	E	N	■	L	E	A	S	H	■	B	E	R	G
R	O	T	E	■	E	M	I	L	E	■	E	Y	E	R
A	L	O	E	■	F	I	D	E	L	■	V	E	G	A
I	D	I	D	N	T	R	E	A	L	L	Y	S	A	Y
P	U	L	L	E	Y	■	■	Z	O	O	■	O	R	E
S	P	E	E	D	■	S	K	Y	■	W	A	R	D	S
E	S	S	■	■	A	K	A	■	B	E	H	E	S	T
■	■	■	Y	O	G	I	B	E	R	R	A	■	■	■
S	I	H	O	V	E	■	U	S	A	■	■	A	I	T
A	R	E	N	A	■	A	I	T	■	S	U	P	R	A
T	I	S	■	R	O	T	■	■	O	R	P	H	A	N
E	V	E	R	Y	T	H	I	N	G	I	S	A	I	D
E	I	R	E	■	T	O	N	E	R	■	I	S	L	E
N	A	V	E	■	E	M	C	E	E	■	D	I	E	M
S	L	E	D	■	R	E	A	D	S	■	E	A	R	S

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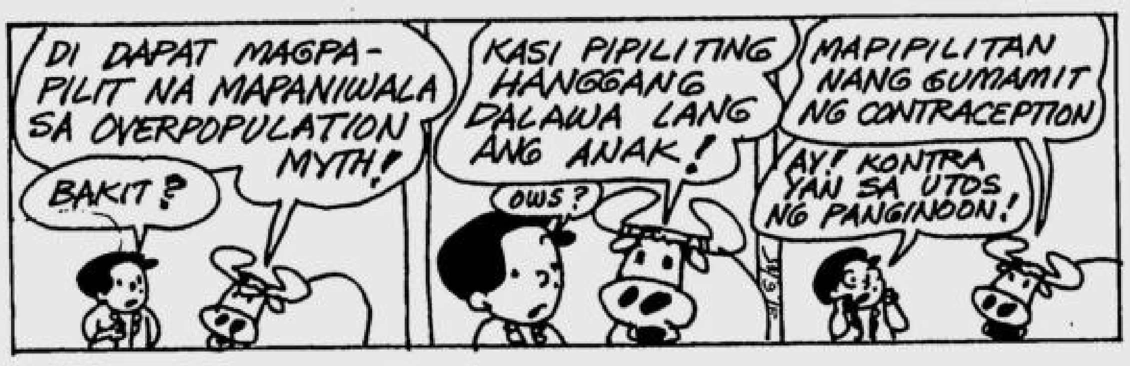
5/5/05

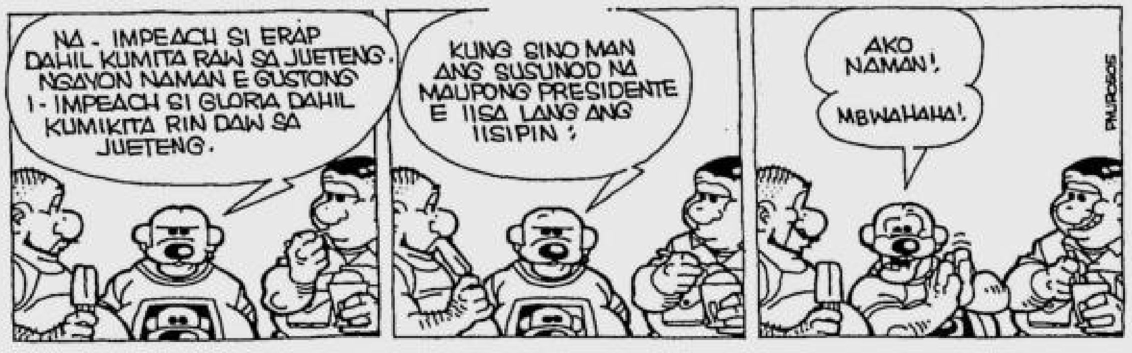
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DI DAPAT MAGPA-PILIT NA MAPANIWALA SA OVERPOPULATION MYTH!
BAKIT?
KASI PIPILITING HANGGANG DALAWA LANG ANG ANAK!
OWS?
MAPIPILITAN NANG GUMAMIT NG CONTRACEPTION
AY! KONTRA YAN SA UTOS NG PANGINOON!

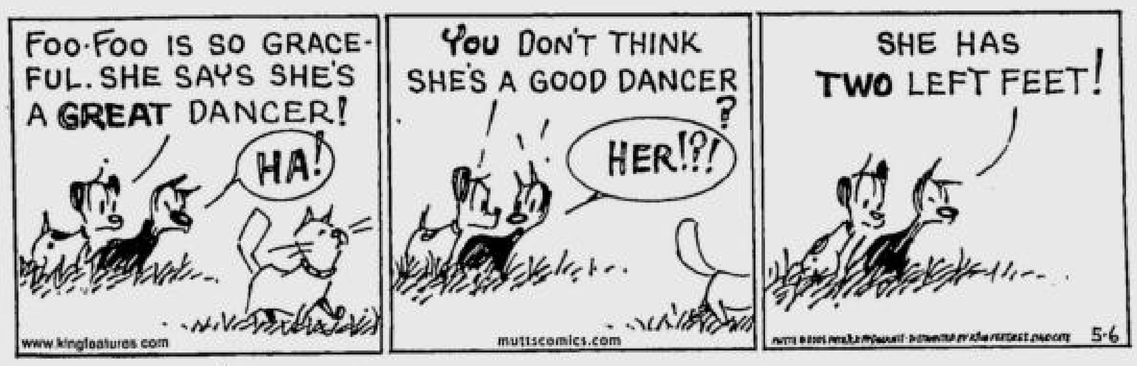
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NA-IMPEACH SI ERAP DAHIL KUMITA RAW SA JUETENG. NGAYON NAMAN E GUSTONG I-IMPEACH SI GLORIA DAHIL KUMIKITA RIN DAW SA JUETENG.
KUNG SINO MAN ANG SUSUNOD NA MAUPONG PRESIDENTE E IISA LANG ANG IISIPIN :
AKO NAMAN!
MBWAHAHA!
PMJR0505

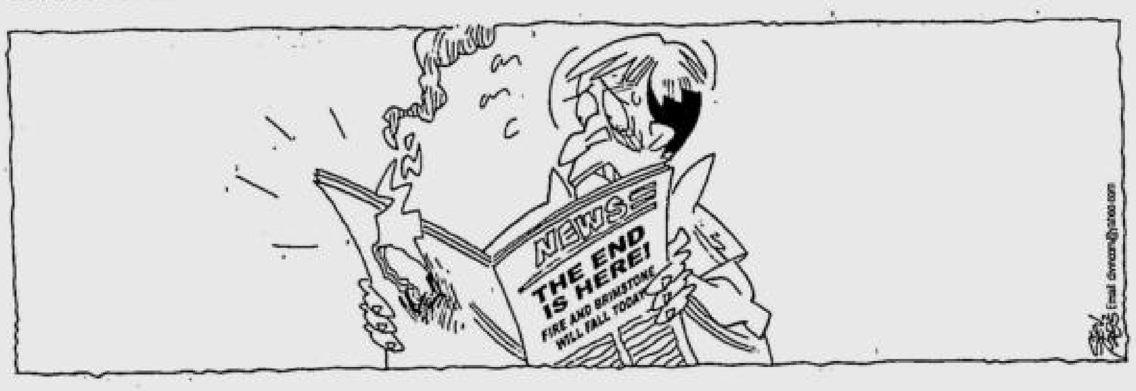
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FOO-FOO IS SO GRACE-FUL. SHE SAYS SHE'S A GREAT DANCER!
HA!
YOU DON'T THINK SHE'S A GOOD DANCER?
HER!?!
SHE HAS TWO LEFT FEET!
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
5-6

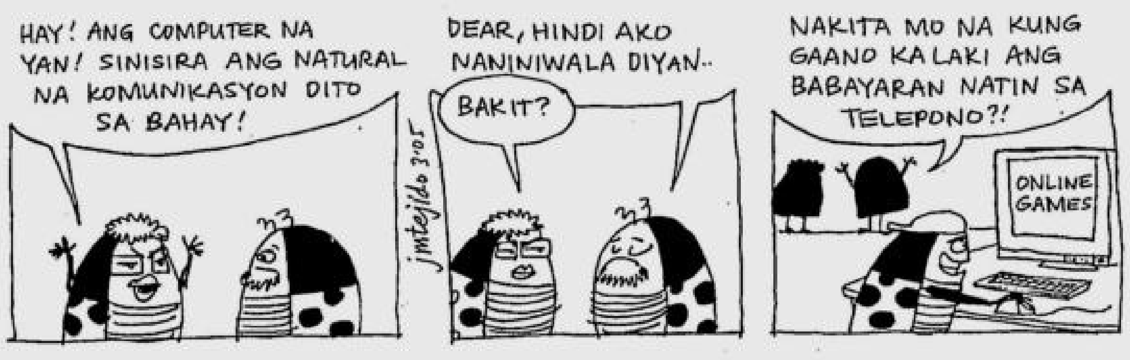
DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


NEWS
THE END IS HERE!
FIRE AND BRIMSTONE WILL FALL TODAY

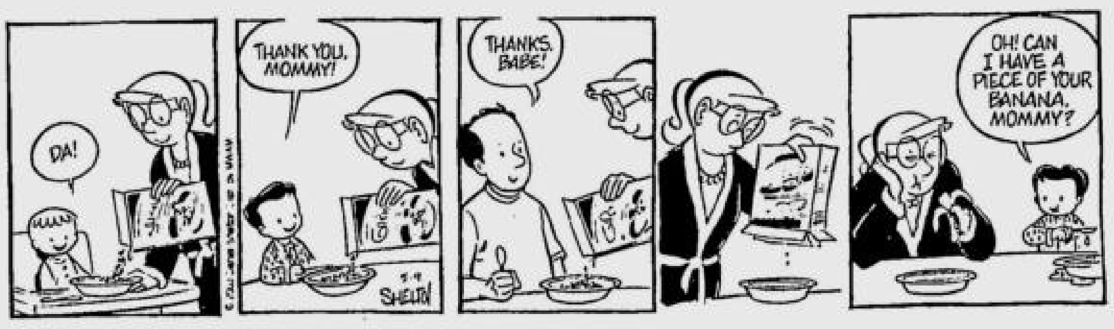
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


HAY! ANG COMPUTER NA YAN! SINISIRA ANG NATURAL NA KOMUNIKASYON DITO SA BAHAY!
DEAR, HINDI AKO NANINIWALA DIYAN..
BAKIT?
jmtejido 3'05
NAKITA MO NA KUNG GAANO KALAKI ANG BABAYARAN NATIN SA TELEPONO?!
ONLINE GAMES

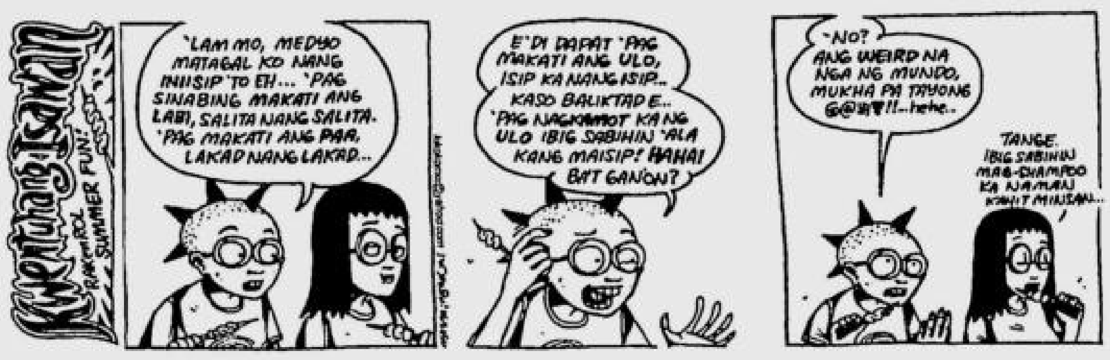
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


DA!
THANK YOU, MOMMY!
THANKS, BABE!
OH! CAN I HAVE A PIECE OF YOUR BANANA, MOMMY?
SHELTON

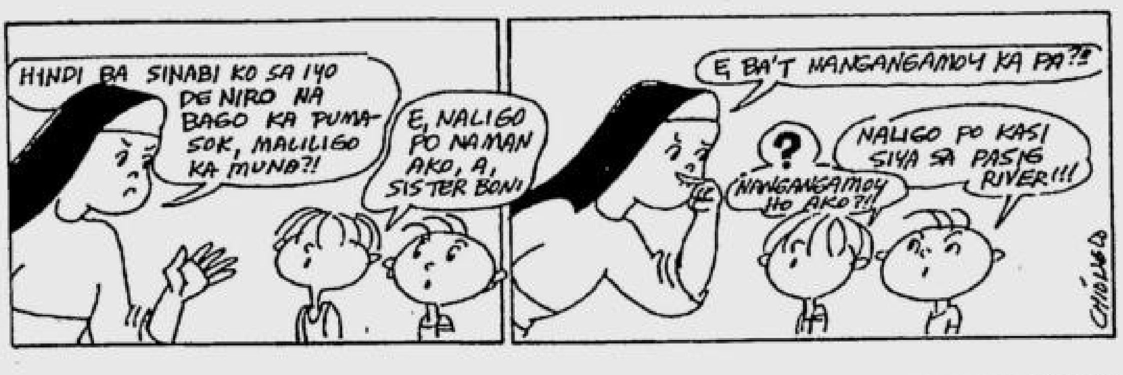
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


Kwentong Isawan
RAKENROL SUMMER FUN!
'LAM MO, MEDYO MATAGAL KO NANG INIISIP 'TO EH... 'PAG SINABING MAKATI ANG LABI, SALITA NANG SALITA. 'PAG MAKATI ANG PAA, LAKAD NANG LAKAD...
E'DI DAPAT 'PAG MAKATI ANG ULO, ISIP KA NANG ISIP... KASO BALIKTAD E.. 'PAG NAGKAMOT KA NG ULO IBIG SABIHIN 'ALA KANG MAISIP! HAHA! BAT GANON?
~NO? ANG WEIRD NA NGA NG MUNDO, MUKHA PA TAYONG G@#!!...hehe..
TANGE. IBIG SABIHIN MAG-SHAMPOO KA NAMAN KAHIT MINSAN...

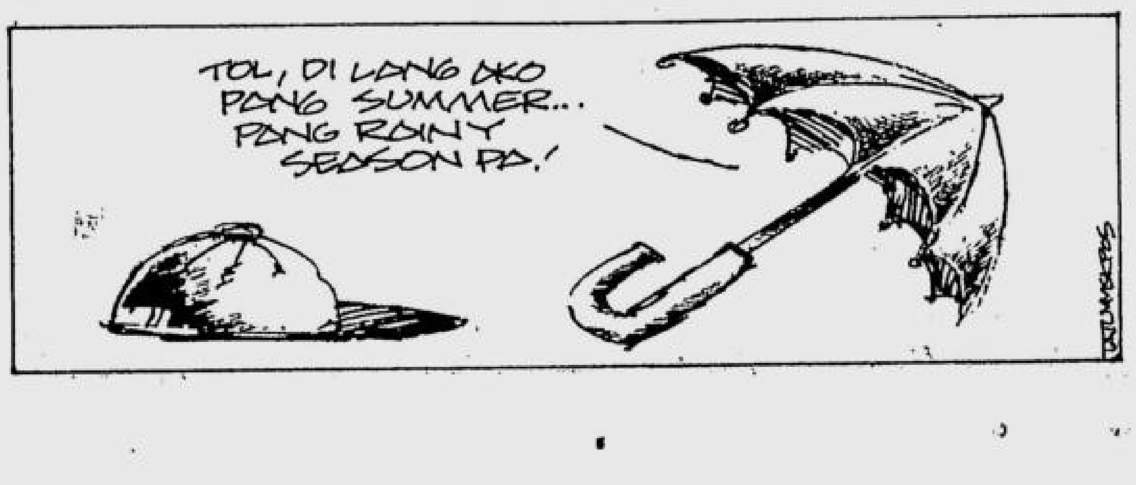
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HINDI BA SINABI KO SA IYO DE NIRO NA BAGO KA PUMA-SOK, MALILIGO KA MUNA?!
E, NALIGO PO NAMAN AKO, A, SISTER BONI
E BA'T NANGANGAMOY KA PA?!
?
NANGANGAMOY HO AKO?!
NALIGO PO KASI SIYA SA PASIG RIVER!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


TOL, DI LANG AKO PANG SUMMER... PANG RAINY SEASON PA!
TATUM&PAPU

AS TRIBUTE to moms, General Photo Express will give one free 5R print for every roll of film developed and printed.

Freebies and discounts for moms at the mall

AT GREENBELT, moms will get free fashion styling by image stylists and make-up consultants.

GREENBELT Shopping Plaza offers marvelous perks to shoppers May 6-8 as a tribute to working mothers.

The shopping center offers three days of pampering, special discounts on purchases at selected shops and salons, and wellness freebies for the women who deserve them most.

Rita Optical offers exclusively to moms free eye check-up and 25-percent discount on prescription glasses. General Photo Express will give one free 5R print for every roll of film developed and printed.

Healthway Medical Clinic at the third level offers free blood pressure check-up. All over the mall, moms will get free fashion styling by Greenbelt Shopping Plaza's image stylists and make-up consultants.

Mildred's, Czarina, Filigrenasia and Stelle E Stile offer up to 30-percent discount on fine jewelry. At In Fashion, pashmina shawls are available at 20-percent discount. Belly dancers get 15 percent off on belly dance hip scarf.

Selected items are on 50-percent discount at D-Tour, Y Latina and Dreskode, while Xavi Salon and Body & Face by Mendez offer a 20-percent discount on foot spa services.

Greenbelt Shopping Plaza is located at the Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City. Call 8191497 or 8190006.

Elegant watches for Mommy

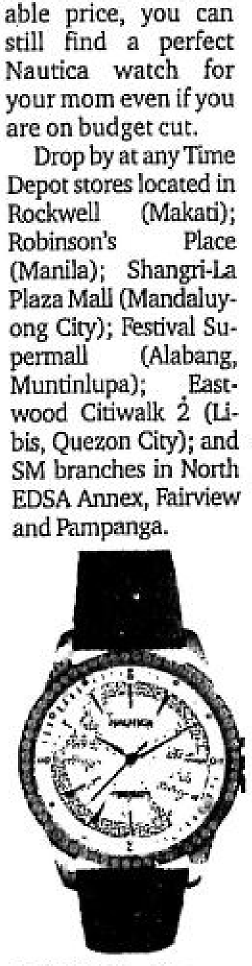
THIS MOTHER'S Day, show your mom that you appreciate all the things she does for you by giving her an extraordinary gift on her special day.

And what could be more perfect than a stylish wristwatch for Mom?

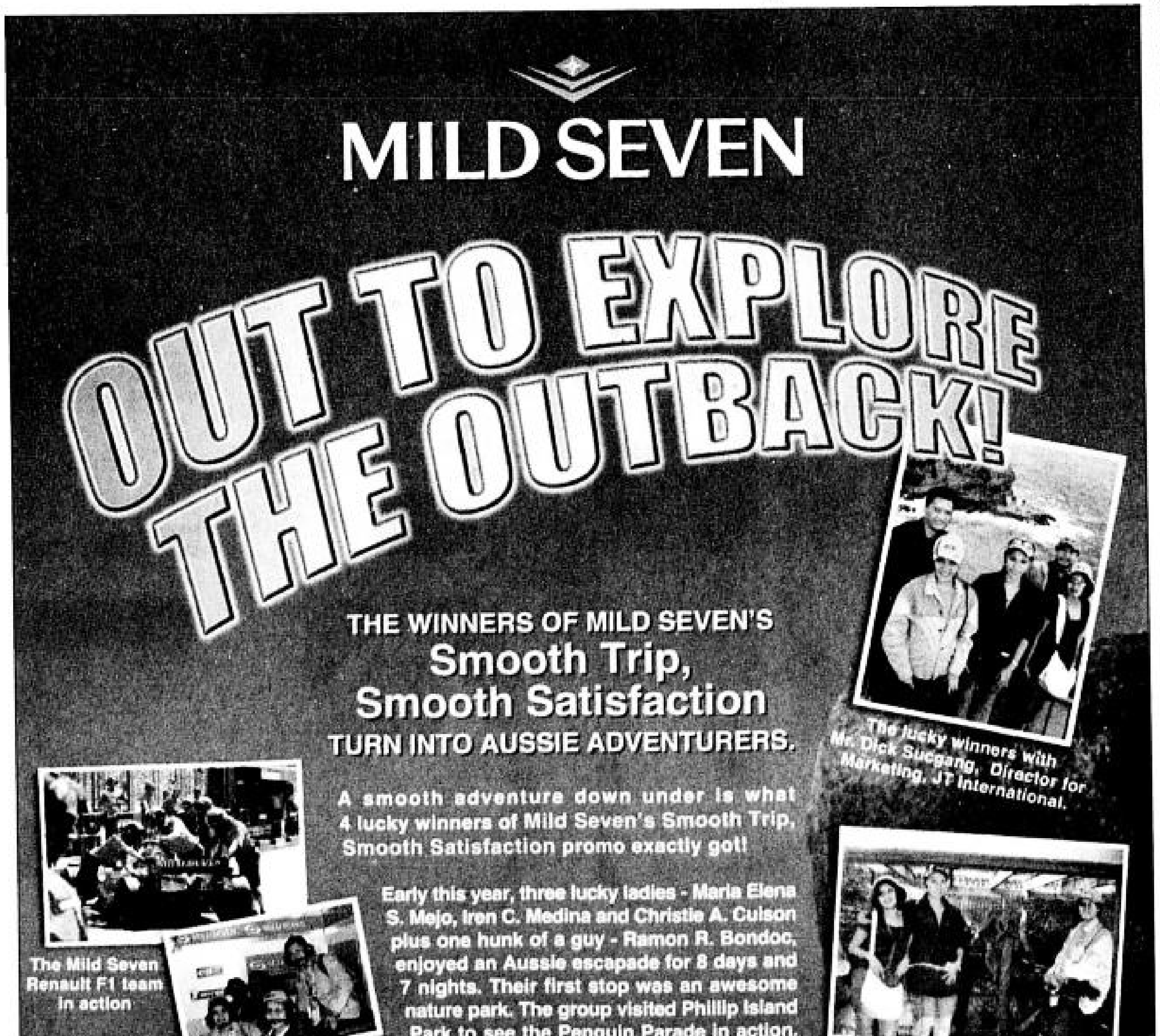
For classy and elegant watches, go to Time Depot. Watches offered at this store, like Nautica, are ideal for moms because of their sophisticated and feminine designs.

Known for its rugged style and adventurous designs, Nautica now offers a new line of watches for women. The watches' designs are highly fashionable and cutting-edge. And, with superior quality at a reasonable price, you can still find a perfect Nautica watch for your mom even if you are on budget cut.

Drop by at any Time Depot stores located in Rockwell (Makati); Robinson's Place (Manila); Shangri-La Plaza Mall (Mandaluyong City); Festival Supermall (Alabang, Muntinlupa); Eastwood Citiwalk 2 (Libis, Quezon City); and SM branches in North EDSA Annex, Fairview and Pampanga.



NAUTICA offers what may be the ideal timepiece for moms.



MILD SEVEN

OUT TO EXPLORE THE OUTBACK!

THE WINNERS OF MILD SEVEN'S Smooth Trip, Smooth Satisfaction TURN INTO AUSSIE ADVENTURERS.

A smooth adventure down under is what 4 lucky winners of Mild Seven's Smooth Trip, Smooth Satisfaction promo exactly got!

Early this year, three lucky ladies - Maria Elena S. Mejo, Iren C. Medina and Christie A. Cuison plus one hunk of a guy - Ramon R. Bondoc, enjoyed an Aussie escapade for 8 days and 7 nights. Their first stop was an awesome nature park. The group visited Phillip Island Park to see the Penguin Parade in action. This is Australia's second most-visited natural attraction where penguins make their way home after a day of fishing in the seas.

After nature tripping, the winners went for a fast and furious ride in the prestigious Formula 1 Grand Prix in Melbourne. Now that's a smooth trip only Mild Seven can give!

The lucky winners with Mr. Dick Sucgang, Director for Marketing, JT International.

The Mild Seven Renault F1 team in action

Gearing up for F1 thrills and excitement

(From L to R) The Australian Ladies with their koala: Elena Mejo, Iren Medina and Christie Cuison

The F1 Fanatics at the Mild Seven Pit

Ramon Bondoc enjoying the sights of Phillip Island

Keep your eyes peeled for more action-filled events and promos from Mild Seven. The next smooth adventure may be yours!

Smooth Satisfaction

Government Warning :

Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Moms can be naughty at only P99

HOT MOMMAS can look temptingly good with a line of sexy women's clothes for only P99. Plus, they can set the mood for love with incense burners, ceramic teapots and aromatherapy burners.

P99 Store is the country's only "one-priced store" where anything and everything is priced at P99.

The P99 Store offers fashionable men's and ladies' clothes, children's apparel, trendy accessories, stylish footwear, functional and handy houseware items, assorted toys and whimsical novelty items.

The P99 Store has branches in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place-Ermita, Robinsons Novaliches, Robinsons Metro East, Ever Caloocan, Ever Commonwealth, Star Mall-Shaw Blvd., Metropolis Star-Alabang, Tutuban Center, Outlet Yard-Quezon Blvd. and Metropoint Taft. Outside Metro Manila, P99 Store has branches in Robinsons Imus, Robinsons Sta. Rosa, Robinsons Stramills, Robinsons Cebu City, Robinsons Dasmariñas, Ayala Center Cebu, Pavillon Mall-Biñan, Waltermart Plaridel, Waltermart Sta. Rosa, Dagupan City, Borongan, Eastern Samar, Vigan City, Tuguegarao City, Laoag City, Tacloban City; and two branches in Cagayan de Oro: Gaisano Mall and Velez St.

PRINTED sleeveless knit in cool pastel colors, sterling silver bracelet with charms, fruit-shaped feeding bottle. Set costs only P99.

Super Chefs, Super Treats!
SUPER SM HYPERMARKET

Cook like a Super Chef!

Learn from these amazing chefs and discover your culinary talent from April 22 to July 17, 2005 4pm-6pm at Super SM Hypermarket branches in *Sucat, Bicutan and Marilao.*

KERWIN FUNTANILLA
A winning culinary competitor, his skills were honored in such places as Cravings and Mandarin Oriental.

MIKE VIDAD
Part owner and Chef of Cusinero's Catering Company, in partnership with four former CCA batch mates. Currently taking up a management course at the De La Salle University, Manila.

MIA YAN
A veteran of several culinary institutions, she has conceptualized and prepared creative food ideas for every occasion.

LEN ORDOÑEZ
A former interior decorator, she made the shift to food technology and is now one of the fast rising culinary consultants and caterers in Manila.

Rowena Bautista
Glenda Wee
Carol Bancud
Redd Agustin
Earl Francis Negal
and
Vicky Villanueva

Participating Sponsors:
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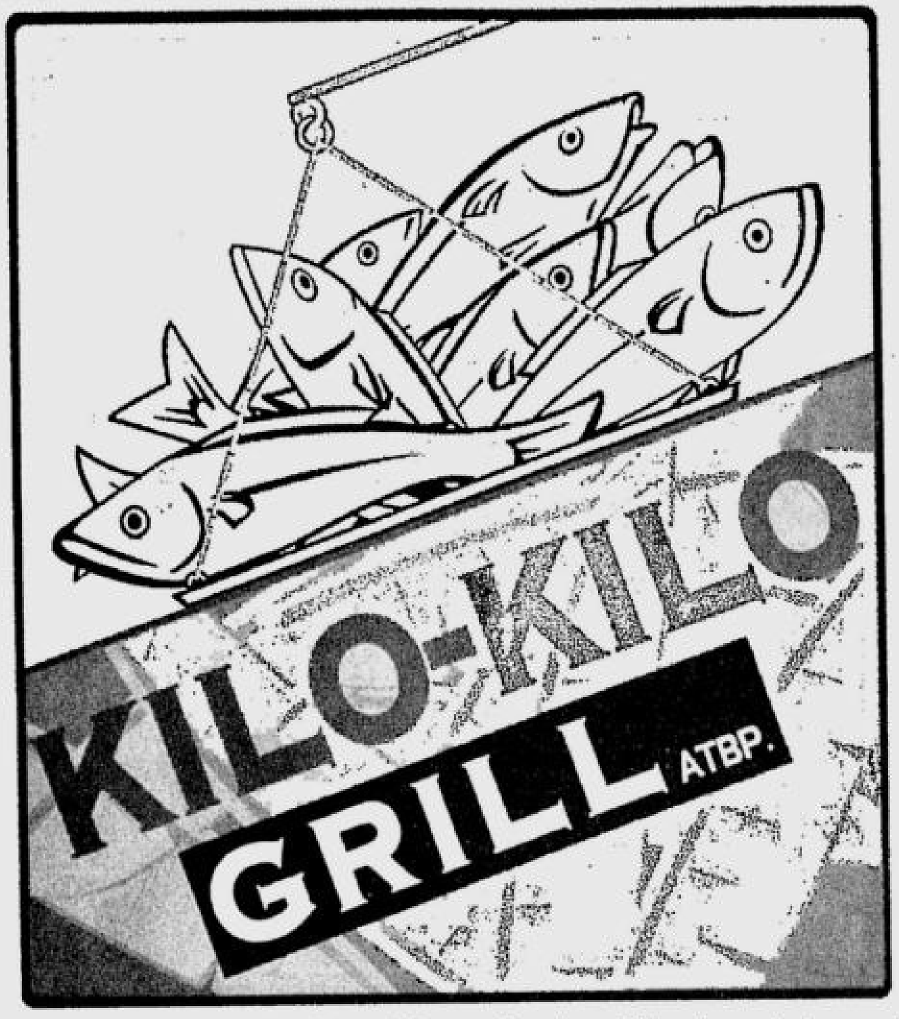
Best Foods
FABTECH
LEE KUM KEE

NOW
The **Barrio Fiesta, Bento Box,**
Barrio Grill, World Topps,
Singing Cooks & Waiters Atbp, and
Bakahan at Manukan
chain of restaurants gives birth to a new milestone in
Filipino Cuisine



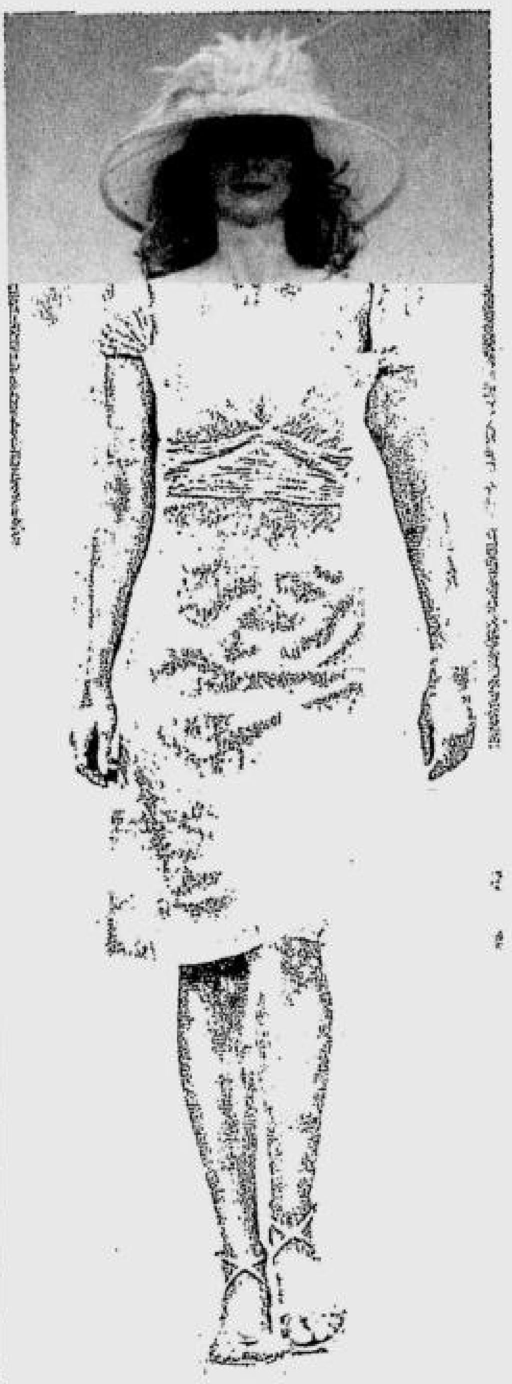
Kilo-kilong bagong huling hito, plapla, tilapia, dalag atbp...
Kilo-kilong inihaw na liempo, spareribs, sari-saring pansit
at ang orihinal na pagkaing luto sa buho
sa napaka **MURANG HALAGA**

P. Guevarra corner Wilson St., San Juan, Metro Manila. Tel. no. **725 6749**

Stylish on Mother's Day

ESCADA'S classic renditions fot the stylish mom go beyond fashion trends. She can mix and match simple tops and elegant blouses in knitted lace with pencil skirts or pants. A little black piece or delicate chiffon or georgette dress in sorbet color, made light and airy by flounces, bows and frills are perfect for a romantic night. Escada shops are at G/L, 6750 Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati and 3/L, Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong.

SUMMER tweeds made light and airy with flounces, bows and frills are perfect for a romantic dinner for two.



DAINTY florals and soft hues exude seductive simplicity.

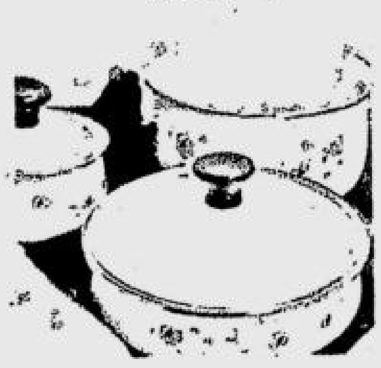
Robinsons Department Store

Gifts of Love for Mom

Candles

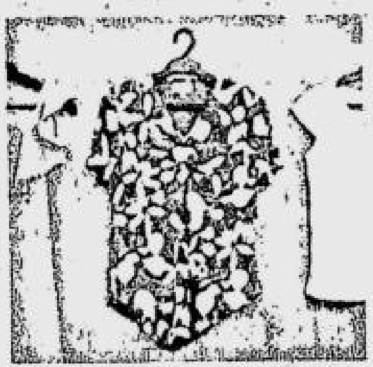
Cosmetics

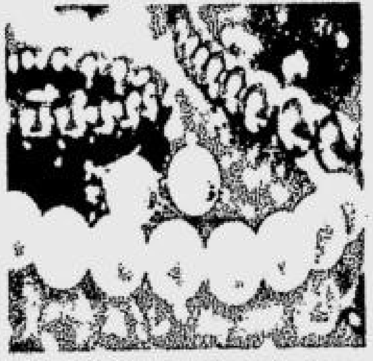
Perfume

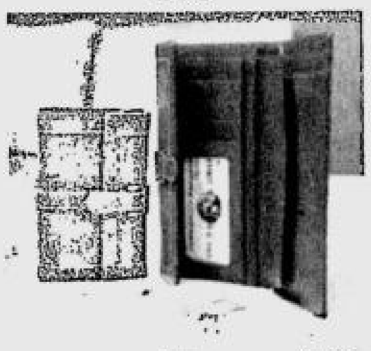

Cookware

Bag

Shoes


Blouse


Accessories


Wallets

25 years
Fashion everyday

www.rds.com.ph

Some items available in selected stores

Robinsons Galleria Flagship Store
Robinsons Malls | Waltermart Malls | Tutuban Center | Starmall Shaw | Metropolis Star Alabang | Festival Mall Alabang | Nepo Mall Pampanga

SM
SUPERMALLS

More gifts for Mom

May 8, Mother's Day

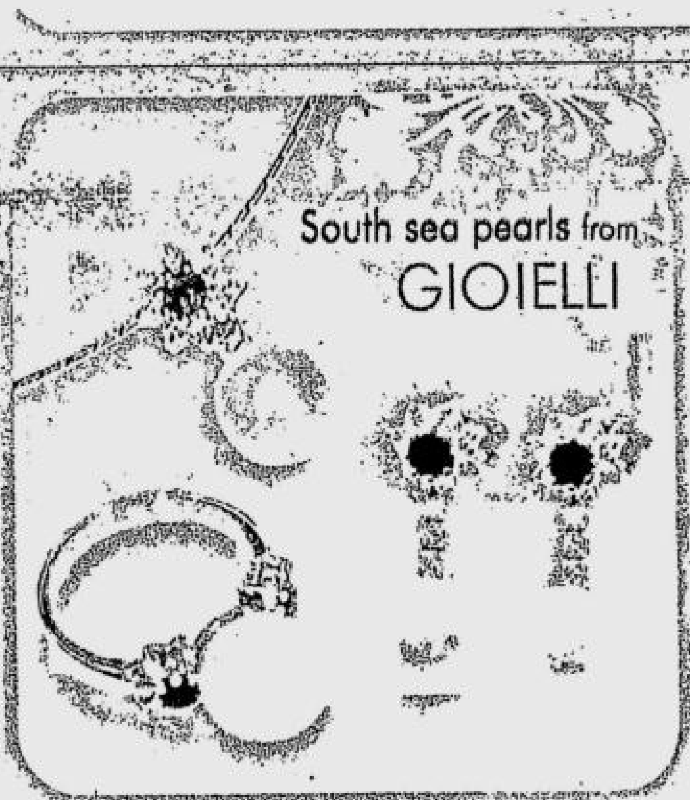
Surprise Mom with great shopping finds

DESIGNER
BLOOMS

CANON
DIGITAL
IXUS 15
the fashionable compact camera
DIGITAL
IXUS 700
where style meets substance

CAROLINA'S
LACE SHOPPE

"Mom....every moment with you is a cherished memory"
Novalia
PHOTOENGRAVED PENDANTS
2nd level, Bldg A SM Megamall
(632) 633-4988
2nd level, SM City North Edsa
(632) 929-7117
Karat Gold


South sea pearls from
GIOIELLI

colors
LeDonne
sense&style
ledonne.com.ph

OCEANIC 1911

10% OFF on silver-plated items

20% OFF on murano glass items

50% OFF on any gold jewelry with diamond

MAY 1-9
MEGAMALL, SOUTHMALL
NORTH EDSA, MANILA

Per DTI-NCR permit # 2417, Series of 2005

MANELS

FREE

VIP card for female customers 18 yrs old and above for every Php 800 minimum purchase

MAY 6-8
ALL SM BRANCHES

Per DTI-NCR permit # 0391, Series of 2005

fiona
jewellery

SPORTSHOUSE

great gifts for mom!

yoga fitness set JA 2000

set includes:
- yoga mat
- yoga blocks
- gym ball
- cotton strap

FRESHAIRE

25% DISCOUNT

on hair treatment

MAY 1-8
SOUTHMALL, CEBU, FAIRVIEW,
BACOOR, NORTH EDSA,
ILOILO, BAGUIO, MANILA,
MARILAO, DASMARIÑAS,
BATANGAS, LUCENA

Per DTI-NCR permit # 1242, Series of 2005

new!
AVON
the company for women
ANEW
FREE!
Promo Period
May 1 - 15, 2005

SM SUPERMALLS

Dine out with Mom, then take her shopping

*Go food tripping with Mom

MAXIM'S
Tea House

Chowking
Mother's Day Specials
Pancit Canton Salo Family
Chicken Lauriat
Chowmien Dimsum

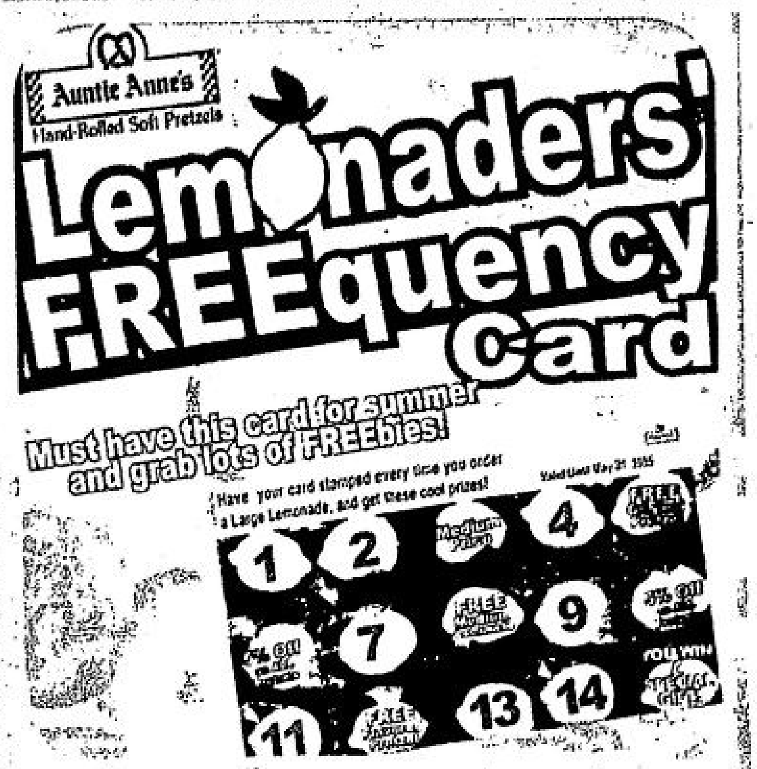
Dulce de Leche Roll

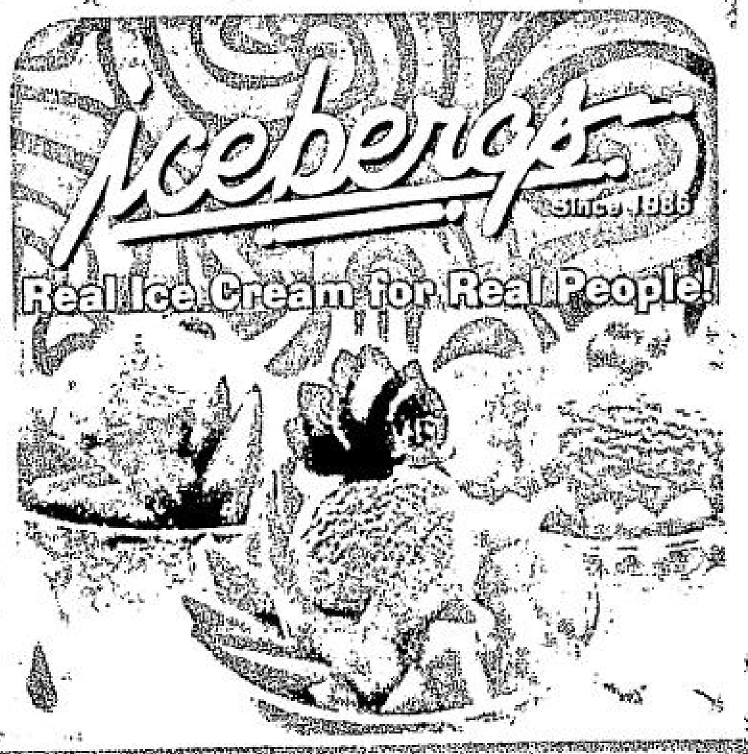
Beauty is...

The Goldilocks Dulce de Leche Roll. A delicious, [illegible] vanilla sponge cake with lemon custard filling and decorated with [illegible] caramel and cream rosettes. Made creamier and more special with Dari Creme Classic. Making your home a sweet home.

DARI CREME Classic
Goldilocks

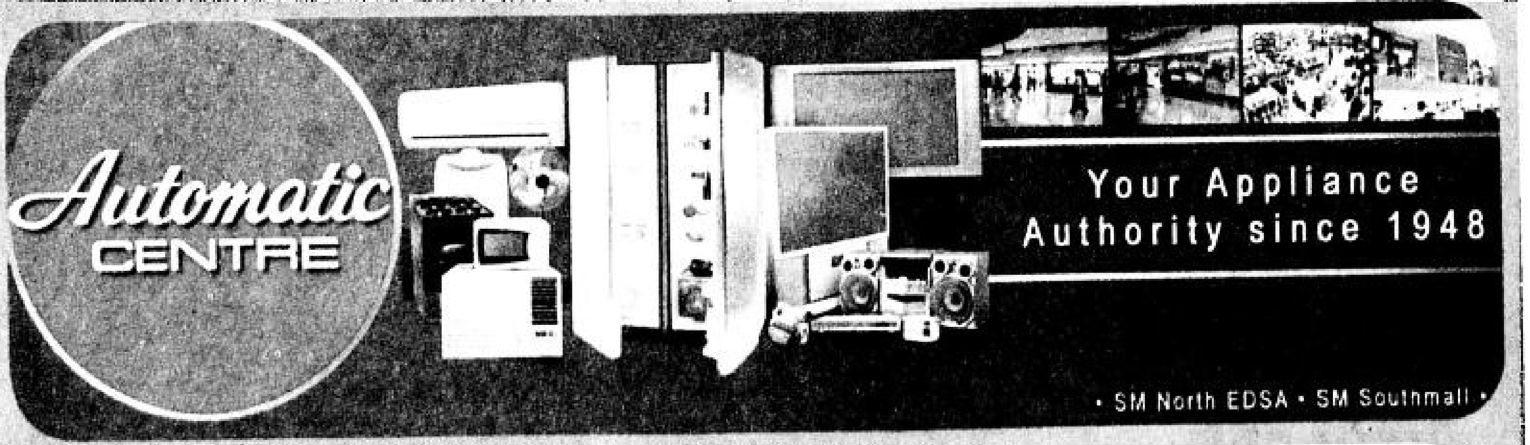
NEW!
Jollibee
chicken Torpedo
45
69
Dito sa Jollibee bida ang sarap!


Auntie Anne's
Hand-Rolled Soft Pretzels
Lemonaders' FREEquency card
Must have this card for summer and grab lots of FREEbies!
Have your card stamped every time you order a Large Lemonade, and get these cool prizes!


Icebergs
Since 1986
Real Ice Cream for Real People!

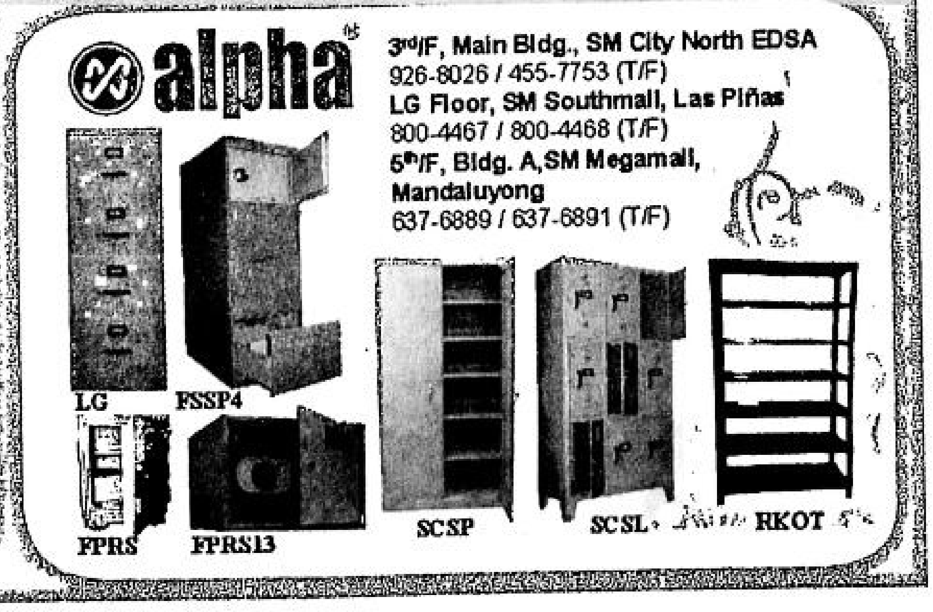
ICE CREAM
Nestlé
WHATTA SCOOP!
SM FOODCOURT
FREE
SCOOP OF NESTLE ICE CREAM WITH YOUR CHOICE OF COMBO MEAL
NEW FLAVOR
up to June 15
Per DTI-NCR P

*Shop with Mom for home essentials


Automatic CENTRE
Your Appliance Authority since 1948
• SM North EDSA • SM Southmall •

Forty Winks
Everything that's good in beds.
THE COMPLETE BEDROOM SPECIALIST

dim ens ione


alpha

3rd/F, Main Bldg., SM City North EDSA
926-8026 / 455-7753 (T/F)
LG Floor, SM Southmall, Las Piñas
800-4467 / 800-4468 (T/F)
5th/F, Bldg. A,SM Megamall,
Mandaluyong
637-6889 / 637-6891 (T/F)

SM
SUPERMALLS

Indulge Mom's fashion fancies

GOLDEN LADY
white gold ligid set

INC. BAG
ladies bags

G-FACTORY

Casio G-ms

stuffed toys from
BLUE MAGIC

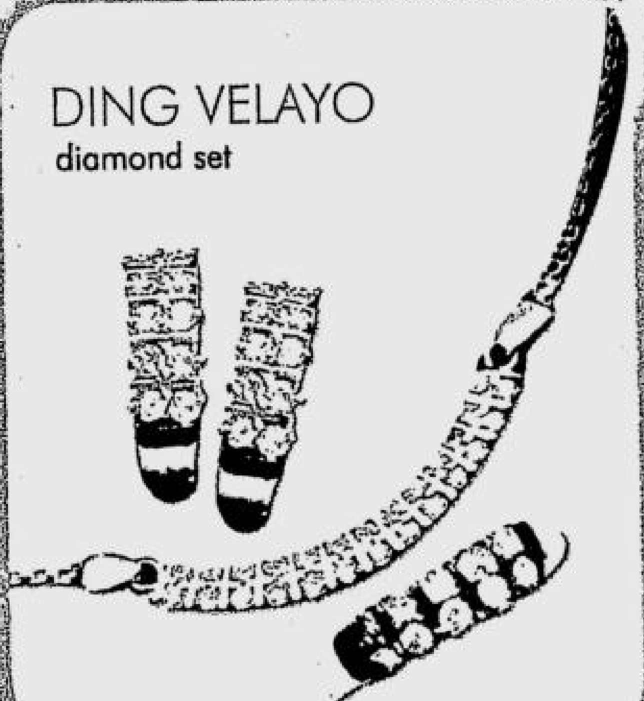
CELINE

Strappy
Happy

Surprise Her with
Apple & Eve!

liven up your mom's
summer w/
AE's cool outfit
and avail our
Summer Sale
something to brighten her up this
Mothers Day!!!

DING VELAYO
diamond set

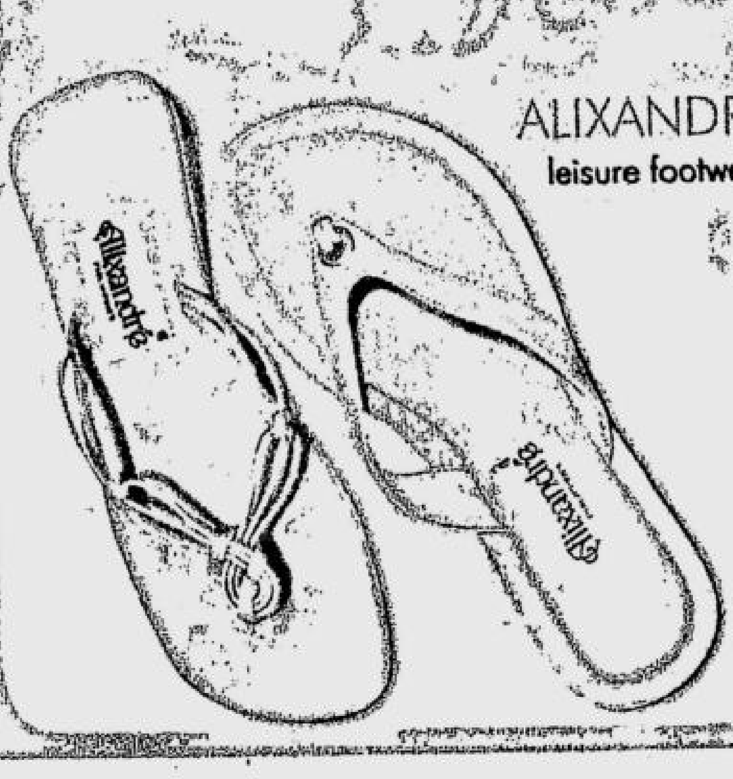


fun tees from **SPOOFS**

GORGEOUS ▽ MADAM

CABRELLI

ALIXANDRÉ
leisure footwear


alixandre
alixandre

SM SUPERMALLS

Add to Mom's quality time

* Personal care treats for Mom

Visit us at:

THE SM CITY

Enhance
COSMETIC SURGERY & SKIN CARE CENTER

NORTH EDSA ANNEX BUILDING BASEMENT LEVEL TEL. NO.: 920-9205
FAIRVIEW 091 LOWER GROUND FLOOR
QUIRINO HIGHWAY, GREATER LAGRO. TEL. NO.: 937-6498

OTHER SERVICES:
- Power Peel
- Facial & Body Bleaching
- Tattoo Removal
- Autogenous Fat Transplant (face & hand)
- Lip Enhancement
- Dimple Creation
- Chin Augmentation
- Cleft chin Creation
- Facial Care
- Removal of Facial Wrinkles using fillers
- Rhinoplasty (noselift)
- Double Eyelid
- Breast Augmentation (bust lifting)
- Blepharoplasty (eyebag removal)
- Deep Set
- Dermabrasion (pimple & scar)
- Warts Removal
- Liposuction & Body Contouring
- Lipodissolve
- Facelift
- Varicose Veins
- Botox Injection
- Buttocks Augmentation
- Mole & Cyst Excision
- Scar Revision

FRANCINE PRIETO
MOVIE ACTRESS

FREE CONSULTATION!

Crown Jewel
Hair Clinic Salon

MANILA DENTAL CENTER

5th level SM City Manila
Arroceros St. cor. San-Marcelino St. Ermita Manila
Tel # 484-00-68

WE OFFER:

DENTAL SERVICES:

ORTHODONTICS
TOOTH WHITENING
COSMETIC RESTORATION
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ROOT CANAL THERAPY
WHITE FILLINGS
DENTAL SURGERY

DENTURES
MINI DENTAL IMPLANT
FIXED BRIDGES
JACKET CROWNS
MOUTH GUARD
BLEACHING TRAY
EXTRACTION

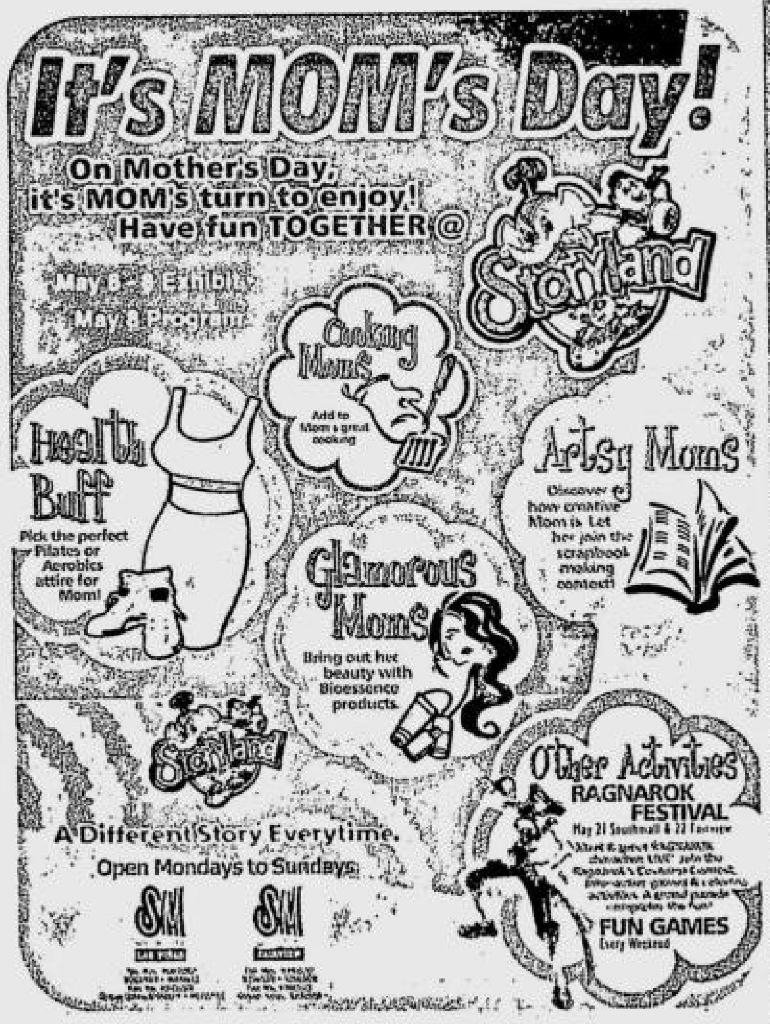
RADIOGRAPHS

PERIAPICAL
PANORAMIC
CEPHALOMETRIC
TMJ

BITEWING
OCCLUSAL
PHOTOGRAPHY
CAST REPRODUCTION

"WE CAN GIVE YOU THE BEST SMILE"

*Take Mom out for a bit of fun


It's MOM's Day!
On Mother's Day, it's MOM's turn to enjoy! Have fun TOGETHER @
Storyland
May 8 - 9 Exhibit
May 8 Program
Cooking Moms
Add to Mom's great cooking
Health Buff
Pick the perfect Pilates or Aerobics attire for Mom!
Artsy Moms
Discover how creative Mom is. Let her join the scrapbook making contest!
Glamorous Moms
Bring out her beauty with Bioessence products.
Storyland
Other Activities
RAGNAROK FESTIVAL
FUN GAMES
Every Weekend
A Different Story Everytime.
Open Mondays to Sundays
SM
SM

>>> entertainment
this week LIVE
VIVA
presents
Sarah Geronimo
SM City BICUTAN
May 10 • Tuesday • 5pm
Bldg. B, Centermall

Spend MOTHER'S DAY with MOM at SM SUPERMALLS

on May 8, 2005

Watch a movie with her
Buy her a gift
Have lunch with her
Go shopping with her
Treat her to a make-over

making great things possible
Globe HANDYPHONE

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SM City Batangas • SM City Baguio • SM City Marikina • SM City Pampanga • SM City Lucena • SM City Cebu • SM City Davao • SM City Iloilo • SM City Cagayan de Oro